

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4907
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005
RESTRUCTURING MEDIA LAB ASIA
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

:-

- (a) whether Media Lab Asia (MLA) was approved for one year exploratory phase commencing from 1st January, 2002 to 31 December, 2002;
- (b) if so, whether the restructuring of MLA was carried on till July 2003 as a result of which no funds were utilized under the MLA project;
- (c) if so, whether the Technical Advisory Board (TAB) reconstituted in 2003 identified four thrust areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the experience gained by DIT on the workshops conducted in these areas and the future strategy chalked out by the Department to initiate new projects for timely utilization of funds?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

- (a): Media Lab Asia was approved initially for one year exploratory phase from September, 2001.
- (b): The restructuring of Media Lab Asia became effective from May 2003. As part of restructuring, the services of all the employees were terminated w.e.f. 30.4.2003 and a set of officers from Department of Information Technology and its institutions were posted, on additional charge, to Media Lab Asia to manage the transition process and to manage the day to day affairs. All the research projects supported by Media Lab Asia were continued during the restructuring period and funds for these projects were provided as required. The funds already available with Media Lab Asia were used for this purpose.
- (c): Yes, Sir.
- (d): The thrust areas identified by Technical Advisory Board of Media Lab Asia include the application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for
 - (i) Healthcare;
 - (ii) Education
 - (iii) Empowerment of disabled, and the research area includes wireless connectivity.
- (e): Based on the recommendations from the workshops conducted in these thrust areas, Media Lab Asia identified specific projects and requisite funds will be utilized on these projects as initiated.