

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1194
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
INDIA S RANKING IN KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Nitish Kumar Shri

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

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- (a) whether India is lagging behind in respect of knowledge economy as per the study report of the World Bank on the knowledge economy;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter in this regard; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): The World Bank has recently prepared a draft of a study entitled `India and the Knowledge Economy : Leveraging Strength and Opportunities` with a view to develop an action plan to accelerate leveraging India`s potential to further compete in the global knowledge economy.

As part of the draft study, a comparison of India`s position in the global knowledge economy was done. The study noted that there has been impressive growth in the last few years; while India leads among South Asia`s countries, there are many other countries which have advanced even faster. After carrying out SWOT analysis, various suggestions have been given for way forward.

(c): World Bank has not issued the final report incorporating the feedback from various consultation process. However, a series of initiatives are being taken - both fiscal and promotional - to accelerate nation`s competitiveness in the knowledge economy. These includes : investment friendly policy, promoting ICT infrastructure, e-governance, e-commerce, R&D, HRD/e-learning and all related areas.