

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2148
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2007
RESTRUCTURING OF MEDIA LAB ASIA PROGRAMME
Singh Shri Sugrib

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

- (a) whether the Government has restructured Media Lab Asia programme in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated during the Tenth Five Year Plan for the purpose;
- (c) whether the Government has reviewed the ongoing projects under the said programme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which it has been able to achieve the objectives?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The restructuring of Media Lab Asia has been done during 2003 as the basic version of Media Lab Asia has been viewed within India and abroad as a proactive step taken by Government of India in bridging the digital divide. However the basic business model, which has worked at MIT, USA and on which Media Lab Asia's approach was based, has not worked in the exploratory period and it has not been able to attract private sector participation in this period. The Government has allocated Rs. 267 crores for MLA during 10th Plan.

(c), (d) and (e): Yes, Sir. These projects are monitored and reviewed on an ongoing basis till their final implementation.