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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(2021-22)**

**SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(2022-23)**

**THIRTY-FIFTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*March, 2022/ Phalguna, 1943 (Saka)*

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(2022-23)**

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 21.03.2022  
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 21.03.2022*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*March, 2022/ Phalguna, 1943 (Saka)*

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2021-22)**

**Dr. Shashi Tharoor - Chairperson  
Lok Sabha**

2. Smt. Sumalatha Ambareesh
3. Smt. Locket Chatterjee
4. Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
5. Dr. Nishikant Dubey
6. Smt. Sunita Duggal
7. Shri Jayadev Galla
8. Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse
9. Dr. Sukanta Majumdar
10. Shri Dhairyasheel Sambhajirao Mane
11. Ms. Mahua Moitra
12. Shri Santosh Pandey
13. Shri P. R. Natarajan
14. Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore
15. Dr. Gaddam Ranjith Reddy
16. Shri Sanjay Seth
17. Shri Ganesh Singh
18. Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh
19. Shri Tejasvi Surya
20. Dr. T. Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian
21. **Vacant**

**Rajya Sabha**

22. Dr. Anil Agrawal
23. Shri John Brittas
24. Dr. Subhash Chandra
25. Shri Y. S. Chowdary
26. Shri Ranjan Gogoi
27. Shri Suresh Gopi
28. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain
29. Shri Syed Zafar Islam
30. Shri Jawhar Sircar
31. **Vacant**

**Secretariat**

- |                          |   |                   |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. Shri Y. M. Kandpal    | - | Joint Secretary   |
| 2. Dr. Sagarika Dash     | - | Director          |
| 3. Shri Shangreiso Zimik | - | Deputy Secretary  |
| 4. Shri Vijay Mishra     | - | Executive Officer |

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Committee constituted w.e.f. 13 September, 2021 *vide* Para No.3184 of Bulletin Part-II dated 9 October, 2021.

The name of the Standing Committee on Information Technology has been changed to Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology with effect from 23 November, 2021 vide Bulletin Part-II Para no. 3293 issued by Committee Branch –I.

## **INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2021-22), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2022-23) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

2. The Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2021-22) was constituted on 13 September, 2021. One of the functions of the Standing Committee, as laid down in Rule 331E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, is to consider the Demands for Grants of the Ministry concerned and make a Report on the same to the Houses.

3. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology for the year 2022-23 which were laid on the Table of the House on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2022.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the information that the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants.

6. The Committee would also like to place on record their appreciation for the assistance rendered to them by the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

7. For facility of reference and convenience, Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in Part-II of the Report.

**New Delhi;**  
**16 March , 2022**  
**25 Phalguna, 1943(Saka)**

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR,**  
**Chairperson,**  
**Standing Committee on**  
**Communications and Information Technology.**

## **Report**

### **Part-I**

#### **I. Introductory**

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) are responsible for formulation, implementation and review of national policies in the field of Information Technology, Electronics and Internet (all matters other than licensing of Internet Service Provider). The vision of the Ministry is e-Development of India as the engine for transition into a developed nation and an empowered society. The Mission is to promote e-Governance for empowering citizens, promoting the Inclusive and sustainable growth of the Electronics, IT & ITeS industries, enhancing India's role in Internet Governance, adopting a multipronged approach that includes development of human resources, promoting R&D and innovation, enhancing efficiency through digital services and ensuring a secure cyber space. The objectives of this Ministry are:

- e-Government: Providing e-infrastructure for delivery of e-services
- e-Industry: Promotion of electronics hardware manufacturing and IT-ITeS industry
- e-Innovation / R&D: Implementation of R&D Framework - Enabling creation of Innovation/ R&D Infrastructure in emerging areas of ICT&E/Establishment of mechanism for R&D translation
- e-Learning: Providing support for development of e-Skills and Knowledge network
- e-Security: Securing India's cyber space
- e-Inclusion: Promoting the use of ICT for more inclusive growth
- Internet Governance: Enhancing India's role in Global Platforms of Internet Governance.

#### **II. Implementation status of the recommendations contained in the Twenty Fourth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of MeitY**

2. The Twenty Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on the 'Demands for Grants' of MeitY for the year 2021-22 was presented to the Lok Sabha/laid in the Rajya Sabha on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. Under Rule 34(1) of 'Rules of Procedure of Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs)', the Ministry/Department concerned are required to furnish a statement showing the action

taken by them on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee within three months from the date of the presentation of the Report. The Thirtieth Report on action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in Twenty Fourth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' was presented to the Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021. Out of the 17 recommendations made by the Committee, 11 were accepted. Replies to 04 recommendations were not accepted by the Committee and were reiterated in their Thirtieth Report. The final Action Taken Statement on the recommendations contained in the Thirtieth Report will be laid in Parliament in due course.

### III. Budget Analysis

3. The budget allocation of the Ministry to implement different schemes and non-schemes for the FY 2022-23 is as under:

*(Rupees in crore)*

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	13,911.99
<b>Capital</b>	388.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,300.00</b>

4. The details of amount proposed, Budget Estimate (BE), Revised Estimate (RE) and Actuals for 2021-22 and amount proposed and BE for the year 2022-23 are as under:

*(Rs. in crore)*

	<b>Proposed (2021-22)</b>	<b>BE (2021-22)</b>	<b>RE (2021-22)</b>	<b>Actuals (2021-22) (31.01.2022)</b>	<b>Proposed (2022-23)</b>	<b>BE (2022-23)</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	12,852.00	9,274.66	9,174.25	5,559.42	15,764.21	13911.99
<b>Capital</b>	1,034.00	446.00	407.00	157.21	459.00	388.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,886.00</b>	<b>9,720.66</b>	<b>9,581.25</b>	<b>5,716.63</b>	<b>16,223.21</b>	<b>14,300.00</b>

#### (i) Revenue Section

5. When asked about the reduction of allocation of about Rs.100 crore at RE stage for 2021-22, the Ministry informed that the reduction is mainly due to low pace of expenditure in the first two quarters in view of second wave of COVID-19 pandemic and expenditure restrictions imposed by the Ministry of Finance in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. On the



reasons for the variation between BE 2021-22 and BE 2022-23 under Revenue Head, the Ministry further informed that the revenue provision in BE 2022-23 has been increased by Rs.4637.33 crore than that of in BE 2021-22. The increased provision is mainly due to Rs.5300 crore earmarked for 'PLI for Large Scale Electronics and IT Hardware' scheme to boost indigenous production of electronics and IT hardware.

**(ii) Capital Section**

6. The allocation of funds under Capital Section had been reduced from Rs.446 crore at BE stage to Rs. 407 crore at RE stage *i.e.* a reduction of 39 crore. When asked about the reasons for reduction, the Ministry informed that this provision was curtailed in view of no investment requirement under Electronics Development Fund (EDF) as some investments had been written off by the Daughter Funds and less requirement of funds for machinery and equipment in respect of CERT-In. Regarding the variation between BE 2021-22 and BE 2022-23 under Capital Head, the Ministry submitted that the capital provision in BE 2022-23 has been reduced by Rs.58 crore in view of no requirement of funds under EDF as some investments have been written off by the Daughter Funds as well as overall requirement of more funds under Revenue Section in respect of both schemes and non-schemes.

**IV. Overall Budget of MeitY**

7. Scheme-wise details of BE, RE and Actual Expenditure from 2019-20 to 2021-22, proposed and BE for 2022-23 are as under:

S. No.	Scheme/Non-Schemes	2019-20			2020-21			2021-22			2022-23	
		BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual (31.01.2022)	Proposed	BE
1	Secretariat (MeitY)	110.24	110.00	95.64	116.03	99.18	92.89	109.33	104.07	82.59	115.00	109.82
2	National Informatics Centre (NIC)	1150.00	1257.91	1269.03	1285.00	1300.00	1308.19	1400.00	1400.00	1046.80	1500.00	1450.00
3	Regulatory Authorities	170.00	163.00	146.51	274.00	212.00	197.58	345.00	336.21	188.93	666.00	344.00
3.1	STQC Programme	120.00	120.00	109.50	125.00	114.00	99.14	120.00	114.91	86.82	157.00	120.00
3.2	Cyber Security (CERT-In), NCCC & Data Governance	42.00	35.00	29.98	60.00	140.00	90.00	216.00	213.30	98.31	500.00	215.00

3.3	Controller of Certifying Authority (CCA)	8.00	8.00	7.03	9.00	8.00	6.71	9.00	8.00	3.80	9.00	9.00
	<b>SCHEMES</b>											
<b>4</b>	<b>Digital India Programme</b>	<b>37500.76</b>	<b>3212.52</b>	<b>3191.09</b>	<b>3958.00</b>	<b>3044.82</b>	<b>3030.54</b>	<b>6806.33</b>	<b>6388.00</b>	<b>3143.84</b>	<b>11951.21</b>	<b>10676.18</b>
4.1	Electronic Governance incl. EAP	450.00	402.87	402.06	425.00	415.82	404.99	425.00	535.00	192.08	575.00	525.00
4.2	Manpower Development	400.75	338.00	337.97	430.00	190.00	190.00	400.00	400.00	85.15	450.00	350.00
4.3	National Knowledge Network	160.00	274.64	274.64	400.00	584.00	584.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	650.00	650.00
4.4	Promotion of Electronics & IT Hardware mfg. (MSIPS, EDF and Manufacturing Clusters)	986.00	690.00	655.08	980.00	700.00	478.62	2631.32	2014.00	758.09	2405.00	2403.00
4.5	PLI for Large Scale Electronics and IT Hardware										5298.00	5300.00
4.6	Promotion of IT & ITeS Industries	100.00	90.00	90.00	170.00	100.00	98.55	150.00	100.00	48.49	246.00	100.00
4.7	Cyber Security Projects	120.00	102.00	92.07	170.00	80.00	79.99	200.00	339.00	302.25	35.00	300.00
4.8	R&D in IT/Electronics/CCBT	416.00	435.00	427.74	762.99	425.00	420.91	700.00	700.00	329.79	1422.20	598.17
4.9	PMGDISHA	518.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	250.00	250.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	250.00
4.10	Promotion of Digital Payments	600.00	480.00	511.53	220.00	300.00	523.48	1500.00	1500.00	627.99	570.00	200.00
4.11	Champion Service Sector Scheme	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
<b>5</b>	<b>Assistance to Autonomous and Other Bodies</b>	<b>1473.00</b>	<b>1096.03</b>	<b>1096.03</b>	<b>1266.00</b>	<b>894.00</b>	<b>894.00</b>	<b>1060.00</b>	<b>1352.97</b>	<b>1254.47</b>	<b>1991.00</b>	<b>1720.00</b>
5.1	Centre for Dev. of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)	120.00	120.00	120.00	127.00	127.00	127.00	200.00	217.00	212.00	300.00	250.00
5.2	Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET)	30.00	33.25	33.25	50.00	40.00	40.00	80.00	78.00	60.00	100.00	100.00
5.3	Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engg & Research (SAMEER)	90.00	100.00	100.00	98.00	88.00	88.00	120.00	116.00	90.00	130.00	150.00
5.4	Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)	1227.00	836.78	836.78	985.00	613.00	613.00	600.00	884.97	884.97	1400.00	1110.00
5.5	Digital India Corporation (DIC)	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	10.00	9.00	7.50	10.00	10.00
5.5	Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Information	-	-	-	-	20.00	20.00	50.00	48.00	0.00	51.00	100.00
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6654.00</b>	<b>5839.46</b>	<b>5798.30</b>	<b>6899.03</b>	<b>5550.00</b>	<b>5523.20</b>	<b>9720.66</b>	<b>9581.25</b>	<b>5716.63</b>	<b>16223.21</b>	<b>14300.00</b>

8. Asked about the reasons for variation from BE to RE during 2021-22 and the schemes where there have been major shortfalls in achievement of target during 2021-22, the Ministry have stated that there is a reduction in allocation of Rs.139.41 crore at RE stage. The variation was mainly due to low pace of expenditure in the first two quarters in view of second wave of COVID-19 pandemic and expenditure restrictions imposed by Ministry of Finance in the 2nd quarter. "Promotion of Electronics and IT Hardware Manufacturing" is the only major scheme in which shortfall in achieving the financial target has been anticipated. The shortfall is in view of the fact that major expenditure under this scheme relates to incentivizing the investors through subsidy for

their investments in capital expenditure in setting up of electronic manufacturing facilities, and the release of subsidy depends upon receipt of applications/proposals from the investors with all the required documents.

9. Regarding the difference in allocation of funds at BE stage for the years 2021-22 and 2022-23 for schemes, the Ministry have submitted that the BE allocation in 2022-23 in respect of Schemes have been raised by Rs.3869.85 crore (from Rs.6806.33 crore in BE 2021-22 to Rs.10,676.18 crore in BE 2022-23). The difference in allocation of funds is due to more allocations earmarked for 'PLI for Large Scale Electronics and IT Hardware' scheme which was earlier a component under "Promotion of Electronics and IT Hardware Manufacturing" scheme.

10. On being enquired about the schemes that have witnessed persistent under utilization of funds, the Ministry have submitted that underutilization w.r.t. BE during the last three years (2019-20 to 2021-22) has been witnessed by 'Manpower Development', 'Promotion of Electronics and IT Hardware Manufacturing' and 'Promotion of IT and ITeS Industries' schemes. The under utilization has been mainly due to COVID-19 pandemic. However, it is anticipated that the performance of the schemes would improve with improved Covid situation.

11. The Ministry have informed that 'PLI for Large Scale Electronics and IT Hardware', which was a component of 'Promotion of Electronics and IT Hardware Manufacturing' scheme in FY 2021-22, has been prioritized during 2022-23 and budget has been allocated separately under this scheme. It is anticipated that MeitY would receive adequate proposals from investors under this scheme and efficiently utilize the funds and achieve the targets.

12. On being pointed out that there have been persistent underutilization of funds under several heads the Secretary, MeitY, submitted during evidence as under:

"No, it was 102 per cent of the RE in 2016- 17; in 2017-18, it was 100 per cent; in 2018-19, it was 100 per cent; in 2019- 20, it was more than 99 per cent at

the end of the year; in 2020-21, again it was 99.5 per cent...xxx...Sir, 87 per cent and 80 per cent for the past two years is against the BE. But the RE budget was curtailed due to COVID and various other reasons. So, sometimes the RE figure goes up compared to BE or sometimes it comes down. But against the Revised Estimate, our performance has been at 99 per cent or plus. I have not, actually, seen that on a consistent basis almost in any other sector. So, we have been able to utilise the budget. I also wanted to mention it earlier once or twice, but I would like to mention is that what we spend, a large part of it, must be treated as investment and not as expenditure. So, it is important that while making the allocations and while reviewing, that these be considered more as expenditure in India's current digital capabilities and in India's digital future."

13. Elaborating on the budget allocations the Secretary, MeitY, submitted during evidence as under:

"On many fronts, the budget allocation has moved up significantly, and compared to even the current year, Rs. 9,720.66 crore is our budget estimate and Rs.9,581.25 crore is the RE and allocation for the next year is Rs. 14,300 crore. So, we have actually been given a very significant increase over the current year. Over the past few years also, the increases have been fairly significant. In 2017-18, I remember, it was Rs. 4,039 crore. From there, Rs 14,300 crore represents 350 per cent jump. It has gone up to three and half times. That has happened primarily because we have taken up much larger nationwide projects and programmes. Also, a significant part of the budget now goes towards not what we tried to do within the Government, but in stimulating electronic manufacturing and production, and entire ecosystem; and also, in stimulating similar ecosystems around many of the emerging technologies. The primary change, I would like to mention, is that instead of attempting to do substantively the work within the Government or within our institutions, we are trying to create an ecosystem around each of the important areas which we deal with."

14. On the status of utilization of funds during 2021-22, he further stated as under:

"Sir, the figures as of yesterday are Rs. 7,789 crore. It comes to around 80 per cent. One significant chunk of expenditure that we had to incur was on promotion of digital payments. This was in the nature of reimbursement of expenditure to banks and institutions involved in digital payments."

**V. Position of Outstanding UCs and unspent Balances with States' implementing agencies**

15. The position of outstanding UCs and unspent balance as on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022, are as under:

	<b>Amount (Rs. in crore)</b>	<b>No. of UCs</b>
Utilisation Certificates due	635.89	220
Unspent Balances for which UCs are not due	3420.97	627
<b>Total Unspent Balance with States/implementing Agencies</b>	<b>4056.86</b>	<b>847</b>

16. The liquidation status of pending UCs as on 1.4.2021 and 01.02.2022 is as under:

	<b>(Rs. In crore)</b>			
	<b>As on 01.04.2021</b>	<b>As on 01.02.2022</b>	<b>Difference/ Liquidated</b>	<b>% of Liquidation</b>
Number of pending UCs	426	220	206	48%
Pending Amount	1320.75	635.89	684.86	52%

17. On the measures taken by the Ministry for timely submission of UCs by the States/implementing agencies, the Ministry have informed that the following measures are being taken by the Ministry for timely submission of UCs by the grantee bodies and these measures are proving to be fruitful in moving towards zero pending UC and minimum unspent balance:

- MeitY are monitoring/reviewing implementation status of schemes/projects from time to time to ensure smooth implementation of various projects which further ensures that the grants released by MeitY are being utilized in a proper and productive manner.
- Secretary and Financial Adviser (MeitY) review the UC status from time to time to ascertain utilization status of released grants to various agencies.
- Grantee bodies are released grants for implementation of various projects in installments, taking into consideration the unspent balances with them.
- No further installments are being released until they submit the progress report along with utilization of previous grants.

- Project Review and Steering Committee (PRSG) monitors and evaluates the project progress and utilization of the funds as per approval and make recommendations for release of financial assistance.

## **VI. Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR)**

18. Proposed, BE, RE and Actual during 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and proposed and BE for the year 2022-23 are as under:

(Rs. in crore)					
<b>IEBR</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
Proposed	1108.47	1248.89	1619.08	1615.43	1632.98
BE	1108.47	1248.89	1619.08	1615.43	1632.98
RE	1160.77	1260.42	1498.07	1518.94	-
Actual	1291.78	1934.36	1620.82	1192.15 (as on 31.12.2021)	-
% w.r.t. RE	111.28%	153.46%	108.19%	78.49%	-

19. When the Committee desired to know about the reasons for reduction of funds from BE to RE during 2021-22, the Ministry have stated that the IEBR target has been reduced by Rs.96.49 crore in RE 2021-22 in view of the 2<sup>nd</sup> spell of COVID-19 pandemic. However, the autonomous bodies have been making efforts to exceed the targets in RE as have been done by them in previous years. The IEBR target in BE 2022-23 is about Rs.17.50 crore more than that of in BE 2021-22. However, keeping in view of the expansion of activities/services being undertaken by most of the autonomous societies, MeitY is hopeful that the IEBR achievements would be more than that of their target in the current financial year.

## **VII. National Informatics Centre (NIC)**

20. National Informatics Centre provides ICT support to the Government at all levels - Central Ministries/Departments, 37 States/UTs and 720+ districts. NICNET, the nationwide Network comprises over 1000 LANs of Govt. offices and more than 5 lakh nodes across over 8000 locations. The data centres of NIC host more than 8000 websites of the Government in secure environment. NIC National Cloud (Meghraj) is

presently hosting a number of critical applications on over 20,000 virtual servers supporting over 1200 e-Governance projects/User Departments under Digital India. NIC email service, with the primary domain of @gov.in, is one of the largest eMail services in India. The service supports more than 1,276 virtual domains with over 2.7 million accounts and daily email traffic is more than 4.5 crore, eMails per day. NIC's video conferencing service is helping Government officials to connect remotely and effectively with each other. Various centres of excellence have been created to strengthen the nationwide digital infrastructure and services.

21. Details of BE, RE and Actual Expenditure during the last three years and BE for 2022-23 are as under:

**(Rs. In crore)**

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Actuals</b>
<b>2019-20</b>	1650.00	1150.00	1257.91	1269.03
<b>2020-21</b>	1700.00	1285.00	1300.00	1308.19
<b>2021-22</b>	1700.00	1400.00	1400.00	1046.80*
<b>2022-23</b>	1500.00	1450.00	-	-

*\*As on 31.01.2022*

22. Regarding the gap between the amount proposed and allocation made at BE during 2022-23 and steps that are being taken by the Department to ensure adequate availability of funds during 2022-23, the Ministry submitted that mainly the fund requirement under the Capital Budget has been reduced. Due to which the upgradation of ICT infrastructure in the Districts will be taken up in a phased manner depending upon availability of funds.

23. On the expending role of NIC, the Ministry informed that NIC's main focus is in providing latest state-of-the-art ICT infrastructure. National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) provides e-Governance support, state of the art solutions to Central Government, State Governments, UT Administrations, Districts and other Government bodies. NIC plays a pivotal role in development and implementation of Digital Platforms and Applications, in close collaboration with Central and State Governments, making the last-mile delivery of

Government services to the citizens a reality. NIC is upgrading its infrastructure gradually to meet the increased demand.

24. With the launching of Digital India Programme by Hon'ble Prime Minister, the role of NIC has increased manifold. NIC has aligned itself with mission and vision of Digital India Programme. Generic, configurable eGovernance products/applications have been developed using cutting edge technologies including mobile, cloud, data analytics, BI and advanced GIS for important socio-economic sectors covering Rural Development, Food and Civil Supplies, Agriculture, Industry & Commerce, Labour & Employment, Judiciary, Finance, Education etc. NIC has been responsible for country-wide implementation of various e-Governance projects including many Mission Mode Projects of the Department. eCourts, Virtual Courts, Soil Health Card, Kisan Rath, eUrvarak, eTransport, eHospital, eOffice, eWayBill, Cooperative Core Banking Solution (CCBS), Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT), National Scholarship Portal, eCounselling, NGDRS, GePNIC, eAuction India, DARPAN, PARIVESH, ServicePlus, eHRMS, CollabDDS, CollabCAD, S3WaaS etc. are some of the major ICT initiatives taken up by NIC.

25. Asked about the challenges/Impediments being encountered by NIC in the implementation of the projects and measures being taken to address them, the Ministry have stated as under:

- NIC has taken up various ICT initiatives for support & delivery of citizen centric services at all levels of governance – Centre, State and districts. Manpower is one of the constraints. Other major constraint is basic infrastructure across the country to match with its huge expansion of e-governance projects and activities.
- ICT infrastructure provided in the District Centers has over the period of time become technologically obsolete. The funds for upgradation the District Centres are require to meet the even increasing demands & upgradation the infrastructure.
- During the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, NIC was notified as one of the essential services. National Informatics Centre (NIC) embraced the challenge imposed by the pandemic as an opportunity and played a vital role in nation's



fight against coronavirus, dedicatedly serving all core sectors - health, education, agriculture, rural development, finance, social welfare, judiciary and many more.

(i) **Government instant Messaging System GIMS (Now named as Sandes)**

26. Government instant Messaging System (Now named as Sandes) is an open source based, secure, cloud enabled, and indigenous platform developed by NIC for instant and secured messaging amongst Government and citizens. The Sandes system comprises of the App, the Portal, the Gateway and the Web version. The mobile based self registration pp supports one to one and group messaging, official/casual/ list groups, file and media sharing, audio/video call, profile and contact management, message broadcasting, chatbot enabled dashboard and Aadhar authentication.

27. Various e-Gov applications are being integrated with Sandes to send free and secured messages to the users. It is already integrated with NIC email, DigiLocker, and e-office and some of the e- gov application integrated with Sandes are e-Courts, Parichay, BHUIYAN (Chhattisgarh Land Records), Jeevan Parmaan, JKUBER (Integrated Financial Management System, Jharkhand), FRBAS-MeitY, A&F Sanctions Management System, Duty Portal, Public Distribution System (PDS) etc.

28. Constant efforts are being made to reach out to various Ministries and organisations by giving presentations, demos and hand holding. Presently, more than 4.5 lakhs users (Public and Govt.) and 160 Organizations have exchanged 2.2Cr messages using this platform. Recently, presentation was given to NITI Aayog, Election Commission of India, National Security Guards and MHA. Some organizations who have on-boarded recently includes ECI, Dept. of Post, NSG, DEA, Power Grid, Dept. of Land Resource, National Police Academy, Directorate General of Defence Estates and some of the State Government Departments. The Secretary IT has written to all the Chief Secretaries of State/UT Administration and to the Secretaries of all the Ministries/ Department to adopt Sandes as official communication channel.

(ii) **Poshan Tracker**

29. The Ministry have informed Poshan Tracker Mobile App has been developed for 14 lakh Anganwadi Workers to register and monitor 7 type of beneficiaries. Poshan Tracker is available in all 22 languages.

30. On the development of the App, Secretary, MeitY, submitted during evidence as under:

“There is another very significant project called Poshan Tracker where we have been involved with the Ministry of Women and Child Development in rolling it out. It is meant for about 14 lakh Anganwadi workers across the country, who monitor the progress of the health condition and physical growth of children on providing nutrition to infants, young children, pregnant women and young mothers. It is the most modern architecture, which was developed in house. It is a nationalised system, which took almost two and half months from the time it was entrusted to the NEGD to the time it was rolled out in the field. It is a fabulous job so I felt like highlighting it here. The anganwadi workers onboarded are about 14 lakhs.”

**VIII. Regulatory Bodies**

(i) **Cyber Security (CERT-in), NCCC & Data Governance**

31. Cyber space is a complex environment of people, software, hardware and services on the Internet. Cyberspace today is the common tool used by citizens, civil society, businesses and Governments for communication and dissemination of information. Keeping cyberspace secure is highest priority of the Government. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India has been designated under Section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000 to serve as the national agency in the area of cyber security incident response. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities and countermeasures to protect computers and networks on regular basis.

32. CERT-In is also setting up National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and enable timely information sharing for proactive, preventive and protective

actions by individual entities. The phase I of NCCC has been operationalized in July 2017. The full scale NCCC is envisaged to become operational by end of 2022 with expected availability of requisite funds and manpower. NCCC project has been merged with regular activities of CERT-In from the F.Y. 2021-22. The budget requirement of NCCC establishment component has also been merged with regular budget of CERT-In from F.Y. 2021-22.

33. Proposed BE, RE and Actual of 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 as well as Proposed and BE for 2022-23 are as under:

	(Rs. in crore)				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
<b>Proposed</b>	50.00	49.75	60.00*	500.00^	500.00^
<b>BE</b>	40.00	42.00	140.00	216.00	215.00
<b>RE</b>	31.83	35.00	90.00	213.30	-
<b>Actual</b>	29.90	29.98	91.73	98.31 (as on 31.01.2022)	-
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	94%	86%	102%	46%	-

\* The increase of Rs.80 cr in the BE 2020-21 is due to combining of establishment expenditure of Rs. 67 crores and Rs. 73 crores for Machinery & Equipment (M&E), which were allocated separately earlier.

^ In F.Y. 2021-22, funds for implementation for NCCC project were also proposed under the non-scheme head. However, the funds projected were allocated under the Scheme "Cyber Security Projects".

34. Regarding the reduction in allocation from BE to RE during 2021-22 and actual status of utilization of funds made, the Ministry have informed that allocation of funds at the BE stage in FY 2021-22 was Rs 216 Cr which was revised to Rs 213.30 Cr at RE stage (i.e. 98.75% of BE). There is no significant increase/decrease in the allocation at RE stage. Out of total allocation of Rs 213.30 Cr, an amount of Rs 90.68 Cr (upto 27 Jan 2022) has been utilized.

35. On the gap between the amount proposed and allocation made at BE during 2022-23 and the steps being taken by the Ministry to ensure adequate availability of funds during 2022-23, the Ministry have inter-alia informed that Rs. 215 Cr. have been

allocated against proposed Rs. 263 Cr. for CERT-In. Additional funds will be required for capital equipment for CERT-In activities and same will be sought during RE stage.

36. When asked about details of targets achieved during 2021-22, the Ministry informed that Cert-In is monitoring systems and solutions and augmenting the same to deal with latest cyber security threats and mitigation measures, The status of physical targets for 2021-22 are as under:

(i)	ICT Infrastructure for CERT-In web and mail activities	Achieved
(ii)	Annual maintenance of existing Hardware and software for Botnet Cleaning & Malware Analysis Centre	Achieved
(iii)	Annual maintenance Software for Cyber Threat Intelligence Platform	Achieved
(iv)	Annual maintenance of existing Software for Incident response	Ongoing
(v)	Augmentation of Tools for Cyber Forensics Lab	Ongoing
(vi)	Upgradation of Hardware and software for Botnet Cleaning & Malware Analysis Centre	Ongoing
(vii)	Procurement of Tools for Incident response and cyber security auditing	Ongoing
(viii)	Procurement of Hardware and software for augmentation of Cyber Threat Intelligence Platform	Ongoing
(ix)	Annual maintenance of analytic solution and tools for Cyber Security Drills	Ongoing
(x)	Creation of vulnerability research Lab for CVE numbering authority activity	Under planning

37. Regarding targets set for 2022-23 and the measures being taken to achieve the target the Ministry informed that the targets at (BE and RE) in the F.Y. 2022-23 are for the procurement of capital IT infrastructure items (hardware, software and networking) for CERT-In activities and projects as well as for establishment (Salary, Medical, Travel, Office Expenses and Training etc.).

38. The Ministry have further informed that during the year 2021 Cert-in handled 14,02,809 incidents. A total of 618 security alerts, 52 advisories and 390 Vulnerability Notes were issued. It conducted 19 cyber security training and awareness programmes for Government, Public and Critical Sector organisations and communication & Information infrastructure providers to educate them in the area of Information Security

with the latest security threats, needs and developments & deployment of techniques and tools in order to minimize security risk. A total number of 5169 personnel were trained. The Cyber Forensics Laboratory at the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has been notified as 'Examiner of Electronic Evidence' under section 79A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and supporting investigation of cyber security incidents and cyber crimes, submitted by central and state government ministries/ departments, public sector organisations and Law Enforcement agencies.

39. Asked about the major impediments being encountered and the measures taken to address them, the Ministry have stated that “CERT-In is in urgent need of additional manpower to keep up with the rapid increase in the incidents and cyber security issues, urgent nature of incident response activities including onsite response, to sustain key current as well as planned new activities / projects and to address cyber security issues pertaining to emerging technologies and areas. To address the challenge, CERT-In has moved a proposal for additional creation of posts at various levels.

**(ii) National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC)**

40. The objective of NCCC is to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and enable timely information sharing among stakeholders for proactive, preventive and protective actions by individual entities. NCCC project was merged with regular activities of CERT-In from the F.Y. 2021-22. The budget requirement of NCCC was also merged with regular budget of CERT-In from F.Y. 2021-22. The phase I of NCCC has been operationalized in July 2017. The full scale NCCC is envisaged to become operational by end of 2022 with expected availability of requisite funds and manpower.

41. The phase-I of NCCC is operational since July, 2017 with metadata collection & analysis from 20 sites of ISPs and organisations. The integration of 265 more remote sites are in progress and targeted to be completed in 2022. Stakeholders of NCCC are analyzing the collected metadata for detection of cyber threats and taking appropriate actions to secure Indian cyberspace. NCCC is running a 24x7 Security Operations

Centre (SOC) for detection of cyber threats like Denial of Services, propagation of Botnets and malware, infiltration of computer systems within various organisations by exploiting vulnerabilities, internet traffic hijacks, exploitation of public Internet serving infrastructure, unauthorized scanning, etc. and immediate alerting to the participating organisations, ISPs and Stakeholders.

42. The Phase-II Stage 1 is aimed for collection and analysis of metadata from additional 15 sites and is targeted to be operationalised in 2022. CERT-In is currently undertaking various tasks for the full-fledged implementation of the project and has initiated NCCC phase-II stage 2. Renovation of office space is currently underway. Steps have been taken towards hiring of Data Centre co-location services for Primary as well as Disaster recovery site for NCCC. Budget in the next year will be required primarily on the procurement of capital IT infrastructure items (hardware, software and networking) and space requirement including Data Centre co-location services as mentioned above to cater to additional 250 sites.

43. Allocation of funds at the BE stage in current F.Y. was Rs. 167.00 Cr. which was enhanced to Rs. 306.00 Cr. Increase in utilization was required primarily on the procurement of capital IT infrastructure items (hardware, software and networking) and space requirement including Data Centre co-location services as mentioned above to cater to additional 250 sites. Deployment of Nation-wide Honeypots has also been initiated by NCCC. A total nos. of 750 honeypot sensors in the networks of various Govt. sector, critical sector, academics, public and private sector organisations are envisaged to be deployed in 2022. Out of total allocation of Rs 306 Cr in the current F.Y. an amount of Rs. 278.44 Cr. (up to 31 January, 2022) has been utilized under the scheme.

44. Regarding budgetary allocation for cyber security, Secretary, MeitY, submitted during evidence as under:

“We have asked for more money. We have actually ramped up the NCCC. As compared to the money given for cyber security five years ago, it is now above Rs. 500 crore. We provide this under two heads – one is for projects and one

is for the Cert-in organization. If required, we will augment it further because there is a certain capacity to absorb on the ramping up side. The ramping up has to be done carefully, stabilize and taken further. So, we are doing that. We are planning much larger initiatives in that area."

45. On the demand for Indian Cyber Security products, the Secretary, MeitY further submitted as under:

"We are positioning Indian products as the trusted products. Indian IT services are considered very trusted services. So, we are building on that brand in products and some of these systems as well. So, we are looking very deeply into the electronics supply chain and what goes into every electronic product. It is not easy. It is easier said than done. But we are into that effort and we are trying to create standards, certification, testing etc. We are actually trying to at least get to know what is happening in the system, so that we can create framework around those. Indian cyber security products have seen a very good impetus. We have seen nearly a 30 per cent kind of growth, ranging from 20 per cent to 30 per cent, depending on which segment we are addressing, and we are working very closely with NASCOM and Data Security Council of India in encouraging startups and companies to develop Indian products and services."

## **IX. Digital India Programme**

### **(i) Electronics Governance including EAP**

46. Electronic Governance is a sub-scheme under the Digital India Programme which aims at enabling digital infrastructure, digital services, and digital empowerment. The broad objective of the Electronics Governance scheme is to provide digital infrastructure for delivery of e-services. E-Governance is a sub-Scheme under Digital India Programme which consist of various projects related to development of Digital Infrastructures such as State Wide Area Network(SWAN), National data Centre(NDC) & State Data Centres (SDC), MeghRaj – Government of India Cloud initiative, e-mail solution of Govt. of India, PRAGATI VC, Digital Platforms such as MyGov, Digital Locker, e-Sign, e-Hospital, National Data Highway, UMANG, NCOG, Open Government data, e-Taal, Rapid assessment System(RAS), delivery of services through CSC, web, Kiosks & Mobile platform, Digital Village and Capacity Building programme etc. Each project has its own initiation date and deadline for completion.

47. Electronic Governance is a continuing scheme. The scheme has been in operation since inception of National e-Governance Plan(NeGP) and has been expanding over the years to include various technological developmental activities in different sectors. National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) initiated in 2006, has been subsumed under Digital India programme which was approved on 20th August, 2014 and formally launched on 1st July, 2015 by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

48. Proposed BE, RE and Actual of 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 as well as Proposed and BE of 2022-23 are as under:

<b>(Rs. in crore)</b>					
	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
<b>Proposed</b>	371.00	1072.17	850.00	750.00	575.00
<b>BE</b>	425.00	450.00	425.00	425.00	525.00
<b>RE</b>	425.00	402.87	415.82	535.00	-
<b>Actual</b>	421.65	402.06	404.99	192.08 (as on 31.01.2022)	-
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	99%	100%	97%	36%	-

49. When asked to furnish the reasons for increase in allocation from BE to RE during 2021-22, the Ministry stated that "The fund requirement has increased due to initiation of some new projects such as InCEP by MyGov, Secure eMail Services for Gol, Open Government Data (OGD 2.0), Enhancement of NIC National Cloud Services, etc. Funds are also required for existing projects such as CSCs, SWAN, SDC, Capacity Building Scheme, UMANG, Digital Locker, e-Health Kerala (EAP), etc.

50. The Committee have also been informed that funds to the tune of Rs. 525.0 crore has been allocated for Electronics Governance Scheme during BE 2022-23. Due to ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, only essential new projects are being initiated. The funds will be released to implementing agencies taking into consideration the status of pending UC and unspent balances with them. In case, the scheme requires more funds, the same will be provisioned appropriately through Supplementary Demand for Grants/RE Stage.



51. On being asked about the key achievements under the scheme, the Ministry informed some of the achievement under:

- As on date 30 SDCs have been made operational under State Data Centre (SDC) scheme,
- Under CSC, so far, total 4.47 Lakh CSCs have been made functional of which, 3.48 Lakh at Gram Panchayat (GP) level.
- Cloud service offerings of 18 Cloud Service Providers have been empanelled under Meghraj and CSP.
- So far more than 9.23 crore registered users of DigiLocker and 486 crore authentic documents have been issued. 1695 issuers and 349 requestor organizations have been on boarded under Digital Locker.
- 23.72 crore e-signs have been issued under e-sign facility.
- Over 557.63 lakh Digital Life Certificates have been processed under Jeevan Praman.
- 631 Hospitals have been on-boarded on e-Hospitals
- Total 3916 e-District services have been launched in 709 districts across 28 States/6 UTs.

52. When asked about the major impediments being encountered and the measures taken to address them, the Ministry stated that the primary challenges faced for implementation of Electronics Governance Scheme are digital literacy and digital connectivity. Besides these challenges, the digital divide gap is also attributed to the fact that many citizens belonging to the weaker sections are deprived of availing the digital services. Government has already taken necessary measures to tackle these challenges through implementing “Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)” to usher in digital literacy in rural India with the objective of covering 6 crore rural households and BharatNet project with the aim to connect all 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country with 100 Mbps connectivity.

**(a) Digital Locker**

53. Digital Locker provides an ecosystem with collection of repositories and gateways for issuers to upload the documents in the digital repositories. So far, more than 9.23 crore registered user of DigiLocker. 486 crore authentic documents have been issued. 1695 Issuers and 349 Requestor organizations have been on-boarded.

54. Elaborating on the digital locker initiative, the Secretary, MeitY submitted as under:

“The major initiatives in the recent period is huge scaling up of DigiLocker. DigiLocker provides facility to all the citizens to store or to get access to published documents, IDs etc., that belong to them for instances, your Aadhaar Card or driving license or vehicle registration or PAN card, caste certificate, education certificates, college degrees. All of these and more are available. The number of available documents over this is 490 plus crore. Of course, that includes Aadhaar which is about 120 crore or so. Earlier that used to be the sort overwhelmingly large compare to the full number but now there are others that have joined it. That is why, such a large number of documents. Issuer organisations that include universities or organisations that handle land records or those that handles caste certificates and educational certificates or driving licenses, passports, PAN, etc., 1729 organisations, I think, this has grown quite significantly over the past year. Number of requester organisations to whom we also provide links to these so that they can be incorporated into their services to improve their own services is about 354 now. The DigiLocker has grown to about 9 crore users now. Over the past year, 1.5 crore users were added. The National Academic Depository, all the certificates from the universities, and this year we have brought in about 1000 universities without, actually, visiting anyone of them physically to help them come in. So, all of this was done digitally and remotely. We have provided hand-holding to the universities so that they could link their repositories of the issued degree certificates with the National Academic Repository and through the National Academic Repository the students can get the access to their degree qualifications at any point of time. They can submit them for further education or for employment purposes and these are digitally signed documents that reduce the needs for such documents to be signed or copies to be taken.”

55. With regard to acceptability of DigiLocker, the Committee have been informed that the system is better than what even most of the advance countries have today. The Committee have also been informed that any citizen can open a locker at no fee as of now. It is still in a promotional stage.

56. Asked if there is any restriction on the volume of documents to be stored in the DigiLocker, the Secretary submitted during evidence as under:

“Yes, Sir. If you upload your own documents, then there is no restriction upto 10 GB. All the digitally signed documents are already available from the departments. You have to only linked it up with your DigiLocker and you are able to get access to your documents like driving license, Aadhaar card, etc., then the same can be shown if you are stopped by traffic police inspector.

That is a valid document. You do not have to have the physical document with you. More and more State Governments have actually issued detailed instructions on this issue and so the use of DigiLocker is going up progressively. The DigiLocker is also the host or it is facilitating setting up of the e-Health Locker. While the Health Locker services will also be provided by other private health services providers, this is the service which is available by default from the Government and free of cost so that citizens do not have to search for other services. But those that would like to avail other services, it is a competitive field. That means, this is the place that is critical for the Ayushman Bharat Health Account.”

57. On the privacy issues, he further as under:

“It is completely there based on the global norms. It is based on consent. If anything is done, it is with the express and nuanced consent of the individual. Nothing can be presumed as a consent. It has to be an explicit consent that we take and only then we proceed because this is a sensitive area. So, we are mindful of that. It is part of our architecture and design. But DigiLocker by itself is a very potent instrument for enabling people to do away with the need to carry or look for paper records or look for printed certificates, and completely switch over to a digital way of working. It is the same type of convenience which we have hitherto got from Aadhaar as a digital identity rather than a physical card. That is important. We are trying to bring the same convenience to a large number of other documents as well.”

**(ii) Manpower Development**

58. Under the Manpower Development Scheme, the activities are targeted to ensure availability of trained human resources for the manufacturing & service sectors of electronics and IT industry. Initiatives include identifying gaps emerging from the formal sector and planning programmes in non-formal and formal sectors for meeting these gaps. This includes Skill Development in the domain of Electronics & IT and related areas. Various schemes/project pertaining to Human Resource Development for Electronics and ICT sector have been approved/under implementation.

59. Proposed BE, RE and Actual for the year 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and Proposed and BE for the year 2022-23 are as under:

	<b>(Rs. in crore)</b>				
	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
<b>Proposed</b>	500.00	702.53	550.00	500.00	450.00
<b>BE</b>	300.00	400.75	430.00	400.00	350.00
<b>RE</b>	300.00	338.00	190.00	400.00	-
<b>Actual</b>	300.00	337.97	190.00	85.15 (as on 31.01.2022)	-
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	100%	100%	100%	21%	-

60. A skill development target of 3.0 lakh candidates is set for the year 2021-22, out of which around 2.50 lakh candidates have been trained and certified so far. As training/certification is an ongoing process, remaining targets are likely to be achieved by 31-03-2022. A skill development target of 3.30 lakh candidates has been proposed for the year 2022-23. The target would be achieved through training of beneficiaries by the autonomous societies of MeitY viz. NIELIT, C-DAC, etc and implementation of various Skill Development Projects/ Schemes by these organisations as well as other implementing agencies.

61. The Ministry have informed that the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic was the major impediment in the implementation of the various projects/schemes/activities under the Manpower Development Scheme. During the peak of Covid-19 pandemic, the Training Centres were not operational in line with the guidelines/directives issued by the respective Central/State/District Administration. Following steps were taken in coordination with various stakeholders for resumption of training:

- In line with the relaxation provided by the Government Authorities in the lockdown conditions, the Centres were made operational in a graded fashion by the implementing agencies
- Virtual sessions and workshops were conducted with the Training Centres to motivate them to re-start their activities
- It was suggested that trainings could be conducted in on-line mode/ digital delivery with some hands on training, wherever possible and required, keeping the social distancing norms in place.
- Stakeholders of various Schemes/projects of Manpower Development were suggested to implement the training through digital version of printed handbooks, theoretical notes and other documents related to theory classes of training, which could be made available to the candidates on some portal or on some app/software.

- Awareness of the online courses through media and advertisement was also suggested to proceed with the training/skill development of the scheme.
- Introduction of some digital training modules was also suggested to enhance the quality of learning, quality of content delivery, and driving employability skills across various sectors.

**(a) Future Skills PRIME**

62. MeitY and NASSCOM have jointly conceived a new initiative titled “FutureSkills PRIME (Programme for Re-skilling/Up-skilling of IT Manpower for Employability)”, which aims to create a ‘re-skilling/up-skilling ecosystem for B2C in 10 new/emerging technologies (i.e. Virtual Reality, Internet of Things, Big Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Robotic Process Automation, Additive Manufacturing/ 3D Printing, Cloud Computing, Social & Mobile, Cyber Security and Blockchain) to facilitate continuous skill as well as knowledge enhancement of professionals in line with their aspirations and aptitude in a self-paced digital skill environment’. A target of 4.12 Lakh beneficiaries is envisaged under this initiative (4 lakh Professionals, 10,000 Government Officials and 2,000 Trainers). So far more than 5.63 Lakh candidates have signed up on the FutureSkills PRIME portal, out of which 1,08,436 candidates have completed their courses. Under this initiative, a blended learning programme has also been created with 40 Centres of CDAC and NIELIT as Resource Centres (Lead/ Co-Lead Centres) to institutionalize the blended-learning training Programmes in a hub and spoke mode for the 10 emerging technologies. These centers have so far trained 524 trainers (ToT) and 4074 Government officials (GoT).

**(iii) National Knowledge Network**

63. The Objective of the National Knowledge Network (NKN) is to inter-connect all knowledge institutions across the country through high speed data communication network to encourage sharing of resources and collaborative research. A high-speed data communication network has been established to interconnect Institutions of higher learning and research. In March 2010, the CCI approved the establishment of the National Knowledge Network (NKN) with an outlay of Rs.5,990 crore, being

implemented by NIC over a period of 10 years. The duration of NKN has been extended till 31st March 2022.

64. Proposed BE, RE and Actual for the years 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and Proposed and BE for the year 2022-23 are as under:

	(Rs. in crore)				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
<b>Proposed</b>	500.00	1000.00	500.00	785.00	650.00
<b>BE</b>	150.00	160.00	400.00	500.00	650.00
<b>RE</b>	320.00	274.64	584.00	500.00	-
<b>Actual</b>	320.00	274.64	584.00	500.00	-
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	-

65. No target for new links has been set for FY 2021-22, as the current phase of NKN has extended duration till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The network consisting of core links, 1752 links to Institutions, and 522 links to districts have been kept operational. The approval process of next phase of NKN, i.e., Digital India Infoway (DII) is at an advanced stage.

66. The Ministry have informed that the approval process of next phase of NKN, i.e., Digital India Infoway (DII) is at an advanced stage. The objective of DII is to create a unified government network by integrating fragmented digital infrastructure such as sectoral networks, data centres, gateways, peering with other international Research and Education Networks (RENs), ISPs, etc., irrespective of their network topology and technology. DII would be a secure, scalable, robust, digital backbone and “Network of Networks” divided into 2 verticals: National Research and Education Network (NREN) and National Government Network (NGN). NREN would serve all the stakeholders in the knowledge domain - scientists, researchers, doctors, students, etc., with different backgrounds and from diverse geographies. NGN would be interconnecting Governance infrastructure that will aid in e-Governance sectors across all the Ministries and Government Departments. DII would address the need of effective Governance and facilitate collaboration and knowledge resource sharing among the Research & Educational Institutions.

67. The Ministry have informed that the proposed estimated outlay of first year for DII is Rs.786 crore, however, allocation for FY 2022-23 is Rs.650 crore. Efforts would be made to seek additional funds in the Supplementary demand for grants.

68. On DII, Secretary, MeitY, during the sitting stated as under:

“This Digital India Infoway is our effort in taking up modernising our national network. This combines the Government network with the research and education network carried on the same physical medium, but logically completely separated out so that all concerns are taken care of. It is a network of networks that we expect will provide much more, much greater speed and throughput and also resilience to our national efforts to connect all our institutions and provide services to citizens.”

**(iv) Promotion of Electronics & IT Hardware Manufacturing**

69. The details of amount proposed, Budget Estimate (BE), Revised Estimate (RE) and Actuals for the year 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and amount proposed and BE for the year 2022-23 are as under:

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Proposed	1800.00	1600.00	1545.00	4200.00	2405.00
BE	864.22	986.00	980.00	2631.32	2403.00
RE	844.22	690.00	700.00#	2014.00	-
Actual	727.35	655.08	478.62	758.09* (as on 31.01.2022)	-
% w.r.t. RE	86%	95%	68%	38%	-

\* Proposals for Rs. 874 crores are under various stages of approval (MSIPS- 340 crores; SPECS- 50 crores; PLI -484 crores)

#After RE stage, fund for FY2020-21 was further reduced to Rs. 478.62 crore.

70. The details of physical targets and achievements are as under:

<b>(Rs. in crore)</b>						
Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/ Programme	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23
		Targets	Achievement	Targets	Achievement	Targets
1.	Promotion of Electronics & IT Hardware Manufacturing	MSIPS & SPECS - 430	215.79	1401	234.13	1250
		EMC & EMC 2.0 - 139	139	300	235.06	350
		EDF – 30	77.37	60	42.72	-
		PLI	-	900	*	4,578
		<b>Semicon India</b>	-	-	-	1280

\* Proposals for Rs. 874 cr are under various stages of approval (MSIPS- Rs.340 cr; SPECS- Rs. 50 cr; PLI - 484 cr)

**(a) Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing**

71. This scheme, notified vide Gazette Notification No.CG-DL-E-01042020-218990 dated April 01, 2020, provides an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales (over base year) to eligible companies involved in mobile phone manufacturing and manufacturing of specified electronic components, including Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) units, for a period of five (5) years.

72. Asked about the present status of implementation, the Ministry through a written submission have informed that PLI Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing (Mobile Phones and Components) scheme has been a huge success in terms of the immense interest received from Global as well as Domestic Mobile Manufacturing companies. Over the next 5 years, the Scheme is expected to lead to total production of about INR 10.5 lakh crore. The scheme is also expected to boost exports significantly. Out of the total production, more than 60% is expected to be contributed by exports of the order of INR 6.5 lakh crore. The Scheme will bring additional investment in electronics manufacturing to the tune of INR 11,000 crore. PLI Scheme will also help in promotion of domestic champion companies by reviving Indian Brands and strengthening Indian EMS companies.

73. After the success of the First Round of Production Linked Incentive Scheme in attracting investments in mobile phone and electronic component manufacturing, Second Round of the PLI Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing was launched on 11.03.2021 for incentivizing Electronic Components. Under the Second Round, incentives of 5% to 3% shall be extended on incremental sales (over base year i.e., 2019-20) of goods manufactured in India and covered under the target segment, to eligible companies, for a period of four years (FY 2021-22 to FY 2024-25). Over the next 4 years, the 16 approved electronic component manufacturers are expected to generate a total production of upto INR 12,432 crore. The Second Round of the Scheme will bring an additional investment in electronics manufacturing to the tune of INR 573 crore. In accordance with the announcement made by Hon'ble Union Finance



& Corporate Affairs Minister on 28.06.2021 to provide relief to companies approved under the PLI Scheme affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the tenure of the PLI Scheme has been extended by one year i.e., from 2024-25 to 2025-26. The notification in this regard was issued on 23.09.2021.

**(b) Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for IT Hardware**

74. Union Cabinet has approved the PLI Scheme for IT Hardware on 24.02.2021 in 10 key sectors, including Electronic / Technology Products, for enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities and exports. The Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for IT Hardware proposes to extend an incentive of 4% to 2%/1% on net incremental sales (over base year) of goods manufactured in India and covered under target segments, to eligible companies, for a period of four (4) years.

75. PLI Scheme for IT Hardware was opened for receipt of applications till 30.04.2021. A total of 14 companies have been approved under the PLI Scheme. Over the next 4 years, the 14 approved companies under the Scheme are expected to lead to total production of about INR 1,60,000 crore. Out of the total production of INR 1,60,000 crore in the next 4 years, more than 37% is expected to be contributed by exports of the order of INR 60,000 crore. The scheme is expected to bring an additional investment in electronics manufacturing to the tune of INR 2,500 crore. Generation of 36,066 additional direct jobs and four times indirect employment is expected under the PLI Scheme for IT Hardware.

76. The two Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes offer production linked incentives to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in Mobile Phones & Specified Electronic Components, and IT Hardware respectively. Under the PLI Scheme for Mobile Phones & Specified Electronic Components, incentives of 6% to 3% shall be extended on incremental sales (over the base year 2019-20) of goods manufactured in India and covered under the target segment to eligible companies for a period of five years. Under the PLI Scheme for IT Hardware, incentives of 4% to 2% shall be extended on incremental sales (over the base year 2019-20) of goods manufactured in India and covered under the target segments of Laptops, Servers, Tablets and All-in-One PCs to eligible companies for a period of four years.

77. A budget of Rs. 4056 crore has been earmarked for 2022-23 for PLI Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing and PLI Scheme for IT Hardware. Regular follow up is being done with the PLI approved companies in order to track their production and investments, and also resolve issues facing them.

(c) **Semicon India: Programme for development of Semiconductors and Display manufacturing ecosystem**

78. In furtherance of the vision of AatmaNirbhar Bharat, the Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister has approved Semicon India programme of INR 76,000 crore for the development of sustainable semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem in the country. The programme aims to provide attractive incentive support to companies engaged in semiconductor and display manufacturing. This shall pave the way for India's technological leadership in these areas of strategic importance and economic self-reliance. Following four schemes have been introduced under the aforesaid programme:

- i. Scheme for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs in India provides fiscal support to eligible applicants for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs which is aimed at attracting large investments for setting up semiconductor wafer fabrication facilities in the country. Following fiscal support has been approved under the scheme:
  - 28nm or Lower - Up to 50% of the Project Cost
  - Above 28 nm to 45nm - Up to 40% of the Project Cost
  - Above 45 nm to 65nm - Up to 30% of the Project Cost
- ii. Scheme for setting up of Display Fabs in India provides fiscal support to eligible applicants for setting up of Display Fabs which is aimed at attracting large investments for setting up TFT LCD / AMOLED based display fabrication facilities in the country. The Scheme provides fiscal support of up to 50% of Project Cost subject to a ceiling of INR 12,000 crore per Fab.
- iii. Scheme for setting up of Compound Semiconductors / Silicon Photonics / Sensors Fab and Semiconductor Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) / OSAT facilities in India: The Scheme provides a fiscal support of 30% of the Capital Expenditure to the eligible applicants for setting up of Compound Semiconductors / Silicon Photonics (SiPh) / Sensors (including MEMS) Fab and Semiconductor ATMP / OSAT facilities in India.
- iv. Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme offers financial incentives, design infrastructure support across various stages of development and deployment of semiconductor design for Integrated Circuits (ICs), Chipsets, System on Chips (SoCs), Systems & IP Cores and semiconductor linked design. The scheme

provides “Product Design Linked Incentive” of up to 50% of the eligible expenditure subject to a ceiling of ₹ 15 Crore per application and “Deployment Linked Incentive” of 6% to 4% of net sales turnover over 5 years subject to a ceiling of ₹ 30 Crore per application.

79. In addition to the above schemes, Government has also approved modernisation of Semi-Conductor Laboratory, Mohali as a brownfield Fab. Further, approval was also granted for the setting up of India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) as an Independent Business Division within Digital India Corporation having administrative and financial autonomy to drive India’s strategies for developing semiconductors and display manufacturing ecosystem. Envisioned to be led by global experts in the Semiconductor and Display industry, the ISM will serve as the nodal agency for efficient, coherent and smooth implementation of the schemes.

80. The total approved expenditure outlay by cabinet is INR 3,285 crore (including administrative expenses of up to 32 crore). The Executive Committee (EC) has recommended 20 applications for approval till 31.01.2022 and all have been issued approval letter with total project outlay of Rs.6,976 crore and committed incentives of Rs 1,236 crore. The total employment generation potential of the approved applications is 28,845 (Twenty-eight thousand eight hundred and forty-five).

81. Elaborating on the Scheme for Development of Semiconductors, the Secretary of the Ministry submitted during evidence as under:

“Very recently, on 15<sup>th</sup> of December last year, the Union Cabinet approved a scheme for development of semiconductors and the display ecosystem in the country. This time, it is not just going after the silicon wafer fabs but also compound semiconductor fabs, packaging of the chips, display fabs, which we do not have at all. Hardly about 4-5 countries in the world have that technology. Semiconductor design is our strength today but we do not have our own companies. We are designing for the world. We are designing for companies that come from outside but we are not making our own IP, our own design, and standing up in competition with the same companies. This is being done to fuel that part of the ecosystem, and it will help in modernisation and upgradation of semiconductor laboratories, and eventually move it further. We hope it will not be just a technology success but also a commercial success. So, that mandate has been entrusted to us. SCL has actually been transferred from the Department of Space to the Ministry of Electronics and IT very

recently. We are also setting up India Semiconductor Mission to implement this entire strategy. Sir, you may recall that in the previous meeting earlier this month, I had mentioned that by 15th of February we would receive proposals for significant investments within the country. I am very happy to report that we have received such proposals both for silicon fabs and also for display fabs. We have closed the first round on 15th of February. The initial response has been good. We will again be back in the market after 3-4 months for other companies that might want to apply. But right now, we have a very good work on hand to assess the proposals that have come in and take them forward.”

82. With regard to manufacturing of semiconductors in India, the Secretary stated as under:

“Since no Indian company is in the business of semiconductors and they do not have the technology, it has to be either companies from abroad coming in and setting up their operations in India or it has to be companies coming from abroad in joint venture or in a collaborative manner along with Indian companies. So, both the ways are welcome and both are happening.”

83. On the status of PLI, Secretary, MeitY stated as under:

“Sir, in the PLI Scheme, we have actually brought in large brands. There are two notable brands. One is Apple, which manufactures a large number of phones. We are actually interested in those companies which manufactures in one geography but serve other geographies. Apple and Samsung are actually the lead entities, and then there are others. Many of them are Chinese companies, like Oppo, Vivo, OnePlus, Huawei, Xiaomi, and some others are also in that game. Through PLI Scheme, we have, first of all, succeeded in bringing manufacturing of Apple and Samsung phones into India with a large format. The scheme we had unveiled here is this. In the first year of the scheme, if the company concerned is a global company which has been selected, it would do Rs. 4,000 crore of incremental manufacturing in the very first year, that is, incremental over the baseline of previous year. Next year, they would do a minimum of Rs. 8,000 crore of incremental manufacturing over the same base year; then Rs. 15,000 crore; then Rs. 20,000 crore; and the Rs. 25,000 crore of additional manufacturing to remain eligible for some incentives. So, it is a very steep gradient that we have set. Only the global giants can actually hope to meet that requirement. “Then, we have created a very similar scheme for the domestic companies as well because we want to also create and revive our domestic brands and also domestic EMS operations, the Electronic Manufacturing Service operations, which is contract manufacturing. It includes our own brands plus contract manufacturing. The way Foxconn, Wistron, Pegatron and Flex, etc., provide those services to all these giant companies, we want our companies also to grow in that space. So, that has brought an

excellent response. There was a little setback because of the pandemic where some of the companies wanted one year extra, and we have given them that. But this year, I think they are all firing on all cylinders. So, this year, we should see a significant growth in not just electronic manufacturing in India but also in exports. And then, we will be on a trajectory of very steep rise in exports over the next five years. That will create the demand for display fabs and semiconductors.”

84. While elaborating on the PLI incentives, the Secretary MeitY stated as under:

“Our PLI incentives will really kick-in from this year. Till now, only Samsung had opted for the first of 2020-2021. The other companies have opted for 2021-2022 as their first year. So, next year, they become eligible for the incentives based on their performance this year. This is how we see about Rs. 5,300 crore being set apart for Production Linked Incentives. Every rupee in this typically represents production of Rs. 16 to Rs. 20, and typically exports of about 10-12 times the rupee that we spend on this scheme. It is very important for us in this year and the next 5-7 years to actually bring large scale into India. If we bring small scale, then it can also come in and go out. If we really achieve very significant scale, then it will tend to stick and our own companies will also start firing.”

85. A total of Rs. 7703 crore has been allocated to the scheme – Promotion of Electronics & IT Hardware Manufacturing at RE stage for financial year 2022-23. The major impediments faced by the Electronics hardware manufacturing sector in India are as under:

- i. Addressing disabilities in domestic manufacturing: The electronics manufacturing sector in India faces certain disabilities which render domestic manufacturing less competitive. The three most significant factors contributing to this are the state of infrastructure, quality and reliability of power, and cost of finance.
- ii. Diversity and velocity of technology change: Electronics is pervasive and spans all sectors. Convergence between different technologies, applications, devices, systems, and software, is constantly driving technology changes. In addition, the half-life of technologies has been continuously reducing and is estimated to be even less than six months in certain verticals.

(v) **R&D in IT/Electronics/CCBT**

86. Proposed BE, RE and Actual of 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 as well as Proposed and BE for the year 2022-23 are as under:

**(Rs. in crore)**

	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
<b>Proposed</b>	450.00	769.70	1300.00	2200.00	1422.20
<b>BE</b>	178.00	416.00	762.99	700.00	598.17
<b>RE</b>	180.00	435.00	425.00	700.00	-
<b>Actual</b>	179.00	427.74	420.91	329.79 (As on 31.01.2022)	-
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	99%	98%	99%	47%	-

87. MeitY supports R&D activities in all E&ICT areas. Defined group (Electronics, IT, CC&BT and TDIL) take up research in specific areas of technology. The objectives of the scheme are:

- to transform India into a global hub of R&D and Innovation in E&IT for inclusive and sustainable growth of the national economy,
- nurture collaboration with Academia, Research Labs and Industry in India and abroad with a long term road map,
- to create an ecosystem to provide a supply chain for electronic manufacturing in country in some identified thrust areas,
- to develop the know-how of various process technologies, products, systems at different institutes/organisations/ societies suitable for Indian market and as import substitution,
- also benefit NE region and SC/ST community through technology & building R&D capabilities, and
- Outcomes of the project reaches the masses and have impact of the society

88. On the reasons for underutilization of funds during 2021-22, the Ministry have stated that R&D in IT/Electronics/CCBT projects is being implemented in academic and R&D institutions. Most of academic institutions remain non-functional due Covid-19 pandemic, resulting in the delay in utilization and under-utilization of Grant-in-Aid released to these institutions. This has resulted in delay in implementation of the project towards delivery in targeted outcome and development of solutions / products and it

tends towards the low utilization occurred in FY 21-22 under R&D in IT/Electronics/CCBT group. Due to Covid19 pandemic, pending UCs against the implementing agency and the budget cut occurred for all the schemes including R&D in IT/Electronics/CCBT scheme, the projects prioritized is progressing accordingly.

89. Regarding the progress in R&D, the Secretary submitted during evidence as under:

“In R&D we have some notable success. Launch of RUDRA is an important development. When you put together multiple boards like this you get high performance computing. It is our own design which is significant. On the quantum side, we have not created a quantum machine yet. But we have created quantum simulators so that our human resources can get trained around those technologies. That is our forte. We are again ramping on that, making a large number of students familiar with this area...xxx....We are working on quantum communication, quantum materials, post-quantum cryptography, etc. because quantum will actually enable use of brute force to overwhelm almost any of the cyber security systems that are in place today...xxx....we have multiple efforts going on in this. In the indigenous MRI, we are very close to developing the MRI. We have been able to develop all parts of MRI except for the permanent magnet. So, that portion is lagging behind. But we have taken permanent magnets from outside and built our own MRI on top of that. LINAC is Linear Accelerator. In materials and photonics, we are moving towards more and more advanced materials. We have unveiled some efforts on graphene and advanced materials. Photonics is yet to take off. But photonics is an important area of work for us. On Additive manufacturing, I would like to submit that we have started out with a few centres of excellence with deep industry involvement.”

**(a) National Language Translation Mission**

90. A pilot project for NLTM was initiated for developing proto-type Speech Technologies for Indian English, Tamil, Hindi languages for English-Hindi; English-Marathi; Hindi-Telugu language pairs and Optical Character Recognition system for Kannada language. The National Language Translation Mission: Bhashini has also been conceptualized to extend the above effort to 22 scheduled languages and is being initiated which aims at removing language barrier among all major Indian languages, particularly in the domains of governance-and-policy, science and engineering,

education, healthcare etc. Under the Mission a National Public Digital Platform is proposed to be developed.

91. The National Language Translation Mission has been approved and a call for R&D proposals was made to implement the Mission and consequently recommended projects are being initiated. In order to initiate and sustain the Mission and the Ministry has requested that adequate budget outlay be allocated to TDIL Programme so that language computing tools and translation technologies could be developed in a time-targeted manner. The major impediment under NLTM is having a sufficient amount of language datasets for 22 recognized Indian Languages to build the AI based translation models. In this regard state language Missions are planned to be initiated along with crowd sourcing efforts for datasets.

92. On the progress of National Language Translation Mission, the Secretary, MeitY submitted during evidence as under:

“Next exciting thing that we are on to is the NLTM – National Language Translation Mission. This is taking the name of Bhashini, which is a word used in the ‘*Vande Matram*’. From there we have picked up this term. This includes very serious research. Also, it is a language contribution API. It is a complete ecosystem with State Language Missions, Start Ups and citizens participations. It makes active use of API to achieve a goal that is very dear to all of us, which is the ability for people to interact with each other and with their computer systems or make use of computing systems to get access to content, to knowledge, to have conversations, etc. So, the end goal of this is that an illiterate grandmother in one part of the country should be able to speak to her counterpart with totally different language in other part of the country, and hopefully in real time after we are able to pull out all this. That involves automatic speech recognition in each of the languages. It involves translation between the source language and the target language. It involves text to speech in the target language. This is just one goal that we have set for ourselves. I thought that it is seven-year goal but I am told by my team that we might see it alive in many ways in next three or five years. Some early glimpses are already available to us. Through this, we have made it possible to submit language data because data is what enables new AI models to emerge for speech recognition, translations, text to speech, optical character recognition, hand writing recognition, etc. For this we have placed all the national database that are available with us in one national portal. It includes some data from Prasar Bharati because they have news bulletin which are in different languages and more or less the same parallel content. There is also



parallel content in Parliament because everything is officially translated into at least from English to Hindi and from Hindi to English. Similarly, it happens in State legislatures. If we are able to lay our hands on all of that and place it in one repository, it becomes a very powerful repository for language models to emerge. We have also created a method by which people can contribute. Institutions, companies and individuals can create new language models and contribute them, get benchmarked and make them available for use either free of cost or eventually they can make their apps and provide them as services. It is a very beautiful piece of work. It is not yet launched officially. But even the pre-launch results are very interesting. This will involve everyone. This will need the contribution and involvement of everyone. Sir, we would also benchmark it with Google Translate and with other services which are available elsewhere. We have started with a very firm conviction on our India languages keeping in view the term - *Bhasha Anek Bharat Ek*. So, each of the Indian language is my language and I should be able to make use of that and enable people in India to access to huge amount of content data services which are primarily available in English and to a very limited extent in our low languages. The tools will help take any content from, say, TikTok or YouTube video, and eventually show it with subtitles in our own language, and later on, text to speech so that it is also be able to speak out as to what is happening. All that we have set as goals in this. These goals will be achieved by Team India, research organizations, institutions, individuals coming together and pulling up their efforts."

**(vi) Promotion of Digital Payments**

93. Promotion of Digital Payments is a Scheme with a duration of 5 years (2021-2026). Promotion of digital payments ecosystem is an essential aspect of Digital India programme and has the potential to transform Indian economy by extending inclusive financial services.

94. Proposed BE, RE and Actual of 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 as well as Proposed and BE for the year 2022-23 are as under:

**(Rs. in crore)**

	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23*</b>
<b>Proposed</b>	303.00	860.00	320.00	300.00	570.00
<b>BE</b>	595.78	600.00	220.00	1500.00	200.00
<b>RE</b>	691.78	480.00	300.00	1500.00	-
<b>Actual</b>	770.29	511.53	523.48	627.99 (As on 31.01.2022)	-
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	111%	107%	174%	42%	-

\*As per budget announcement FY 2022-23, the financial support given in FY 2021-22 would continue in FY 2022-23 also. Hence, additional funds are likely to be received at supplementary/RE stage.

95. Regarding the objectives of the Scheme, the Ministry informed as under:
- Enhancement of the digital payments acceptance infrastructure in J&K, NE, Rural and other un-tapped areas.
  - End-to-end integration of digital payments in the complete supply-chain of major trades of the States & UTs.
  - Promotion of digital payments in Government sector across the country.
  - Targeted interventions/ models tying up cashless payments with the livelihoods of otherwise digitally-excluded population segments.
  - Execute targeted awareness and incentive programs.
  - Promotion and enablement of startups in Fintech domain.
  - Strengthening of Cyber-security in Digital Payments including robust grievance redressal mechanism.
  - Internationalisation of domestic payment modes (RuPay card & UPI).
96. On the steps being taken by the Ministry to ensure adequate availability of funds during 2022-23, the Ministry have informed that as per budget announcement FY 2022-23, the financial support given in FY 2021-22 would continue in FY 2022-23 also. The allocation of funds in FY 2022-23 may change, in line of Budget 2022-23 announcements.
97. Digital payments have significantly increased in recent years, as a result of coordinated efforts of the Government with all stakeholders. The total transaction volume increased from 2,071 crore in FY 2017-18 to 5,554 crore in FY 2020-21. In FY 2021-22, total 6,380 crore digital payment transactions have been achieved, till 02.02.2022 (as per DIGIDHAN Dashboard).
98. Highlighting the significant initiatives of the Ministry, Secretary, MeitY, submitted during evidence as under:
- “Another significant initiative that is interesting to the Ministry of Electronics and IT is the promotion of digital payments. Growth of UPI continues unabated. I would like to mention that over the last year, from the time we met this Committee in relation to the Budget for the previous year, in January of 2021, the number of UPI transactions across the country was Rs.230 crore

transactions....xxx...“In January, 2022, it was Rs.461 crore transactions. So, it is more than 100 per cent growth between the same month of last year and this year. This continues to grow similarly in terms of value as well. These two graphs, the bar chart and the line are indicating that. The line indicates the value. So, it has been growing quite significantly. The exponential growth is still on. Typically, after certain period, one sees the plateauing or an ‘s’ curve. I think we are still not at that stage. It is still continuing quite actively.”

**X. Assistance to Autonomous and Other Bodies**

**(i) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**

99. Budget allocations for UIDAI during the last four years is as under:

	(Rs. in crore)				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
<b>Proposed</b>	1965.00	1650.00	1500.00	1200.00	1400.00
<b>BE</b>	1375.00	1227.00	985.00	600.00	1110.00
<b>RE</b>	1345.00	836.78	613.00	884.97	-
<b>Actual</b>	1344.99	836.78	613.00	884.97	-
<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	-

100. MeitY had approved ₹ 600.00 crore as B.E for UIDAI for the year 2021-22 against the total requirement of ₹ 1631.05 crore projected by UIDAI. At RE stage, UIDAI has projected the requirement of ₹ 1855.67 crore and the same was communicated to MeitY. However, MeitY has communicated the reduced RE of ₹ 884.97 crore for the F.Y. 2021-22. The expenditure already incurred so far, is ₹ 1042.15 crore, against the released Grant-in-Aid of ₹ 884.97 crore. The excess expenditure has been met from UIDAI’s income. The increase in utilization is due to following reasons:

- On-boarding of new Managed Service Providers for various UIDAI services.
- Up gradation work of Data Centres (DC’s) i.e. replacement and up gradation of UIDAI data servers and storage are being carried out.
- Priority given to Mandatory Biometric Updates (MBU). Hence, the number of updates are on the higher side. Also in order to achieve saturation level in North Eastern region, Aadhaar Enrolments are very high.
- Opening of UIDAI own Aadhaar Sewa Kendras on the lines of Passport Sewa Kendra in various cities.

101. Regarding the gap in the amount proposed and allocation made at BE during 2022-23 and steps being taken by the Ministry to ensure adequate availability of funds

during 2022-23, the Ministry stated that an amount of Rs. 1110.00 crore has been allocated as B.E for UIDAI for the year 2022-23 against the total requirement of ₹ 1623.19 crore projected by UIDAI. The allocation of ₹ 1110.00 crore for the F.Y. 2022-23 may not be sufficient to meet the requirement of UIDAI in view of hiring of new Managed Service Providers for various UIDAI services, tech refresh of Data Centres (DC's), opening of new Aadhaar Sewa Kendras in various cities and higher volume of enrolment in North Eastern Region. MoF would be requested to provide additional funds at appropriate stage based on the utilization of funds.

102. The Ministry stated that due to COVID-19 pandemic, there was an impact on the functioning of Aadhaar centres throughout the country. However, the total number of Aadhaar enrolment centres functioning across the country has now crossed the pre-Covid level.

103. The Committee have been informed that on-boarding of about one lakh postmen through India Post Payment Bank, equipped with tablet and single fingerprint scanner using Child Enrolment Lite Client (CELC) to facilitate mobile and email linking in Aadhaar. Out of these, 79,069 operators are on-boarded and 73,103 machines activated as on 31-12-2021. UIDAI proposes to develop and deploy a web-based application through CDAC to issue e-signed certificates by designated officials (MP/MLA/Municipal Councillors/Gazetted Officers etc). The certificate can be used as valid proof document by residents at the time of Aadhaar enrolment. As the certificate to be signed by the official with Aadhaar OTP based authentication, it will reduce the chance for production of fraudulent certificates. 100% quality check for the documents uploaded by the residents for enrolment / update of Aadhaar. To further increase the Saturation level of Aadhaar generation by additional 1%.

104. Explaining the reasons for increased allocation during 2022-23, Secretary, MeitY stated as under:

“On UIDAI, I would like to mention that we have provisioned almost an 85 per cent increase. They are in the middle of technology refresh cycle. Their

equipment was about 10-12 years old and needed to be replaced at this point. So, this year as well as next year, we are supporting them with a higher allocation to enable them to upgrade their hardware as well as the software and other cyber security and other measures around their systems.”

**Part-II**  
**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Budget Analysis**

1. The Committee note that for the year 2022-23, the Ministry have laid Detailed Demands for Grants of Rs. 14300 crore consisting of Rs. 13911.99 crore under Revenue Section and Rs. 388.01 crore under Capital Section. The amount is Rs. 4579.34 crore more than the allocation made at BE stage 2021-22. The revenue provision in BE 2022-23 has been increased by Rs. 4637. 33 crore when compared with the BE of 2021-22 mainly due to Rs.5300 crore earmarked for 'PLI for Large Scale Electronics and IT Hardware' scheme to boost indigenous production of electronics and IT hardware, whereas under the Capital Section the allocation has been reduced by Rs. 58 crore during 2022-23.

With regard to the utilization of funds, the Committee note that an amount of Rs. 9274.66 crore had been allocated at BE stage under the Revenue Section during 2021-22 which was reduced to Rs. 9174.25 crore at the RE stage mainly due to the low pace of expenditure in the first two quarters in view of the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic and expenditure restrictions imposed by Ministry of Finance in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. The actual utilization as on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2022 has been Rs. 5559.42 crore only. Under the Capital Section, an amount of Rs. 446 crore had been allocated at BE stage for the year 2021-22 which was reduced to Rs.407 crore at RE stage and actual utilization till January, 2022 has been Rs.157.21 crore only. The Committee note that during the year 2021-22 there has been a gross under utilization of funds under several Plan Schemes such as 'STQC Programme', 'Cyber security (Cert-In), NCCC and Data Governance', 'Electronic Governance including EAP', 'Manpower Development', 'Promotion of Electronics & IT Hardware Manufacturing', 'Promotion of IT&ITeS', 'R&D in IT/Electronics/ CCBT', 'Promotion of Digital Payments', etc. The Committee have further been informed by the Ministry that there has been a persistent underutilization of funds during the last three years w.r.t. BE under schemes like

**‘Manpower Development’, ‘Promotion of Electronics and IT Hardware Manufacturing’ and ‘Promotion of IT and ITeS Industries’.**

**Amidst the slow pace of utilization during Financial Year 2021-22, the Ministry have proposed an amount of Rs.16223.21 crore for the year 2022-23 and they have been allocated Rs.14300 crore at BE stage. Schemes which have received major share of allocation are ‘Electronics Governance’, ‘National Knowledge Network’, ‘PLI for Large Scale Electronics and IT Hardware’, ‘UIDAI’, etc. The Committee also note that as per the updated information furnished by the Ministry, the final figure for the utilization of funds as on 24.02.2022 has settled at Rs.7,789 crore which comes to around 80 per cent of Revised Estimates for the year 2021-22. The Committee are given to understand that one major portion of expenditure that the Ministry had to incur was on the promotion of digital payments which was in the nature of reimbursement expenditure to banks and institutions involved in digital payments that dragged till the end of the financial year.**

**While the explanation of the Ministry that some of the expenditure involved last minute reconciliation with banks and payment organizations, yet the overall 80 per cent spending is still a concern keeping in view the fact that the Ministry are implementing some of the flagship programmes of the Government. The Ministry have also candidly accepted that there has been persistent underutilization of funds over last couple of years under some of the ongoing schemes. That is a cause of concern for the Committee. The Committee are of the considered view that there is a need to keep a vigil on the pace of expenditure during the year 2022-23 since the allocations have been further enhanced. The Committee desire that the reduction of funds from BE to RE is strictly avoided so that implementation of schemes does not get affected. The Committee also recommend that the Ministry avoid any last minute rush in the financial year. The Committee may be apprised of the steps taken to address the above concerns.**

### **Position of Outstanding Utilization Certificates (UCs)**

2. The Committee note that as on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022, a total of 220 Utilization Certificates amounting to Rs. 635.89 crore were due. The Ministry have informed that they have taken several initiatives for liquidation of pending UCs. These measures are proving to be fruitful as the pending UCs amount for any particular period is continuously on a decreasing trend. The Committee are given to understand that during the period from 01.04.2021 to 01.02.2022, Utilization Certificates amounting to Rs. 684.86 crore have been liquidated. The Ministry are monitoring/reviewing implementation status of schemes/projects from time to time to ensure smooth implementation of various projects which further ensures that the grants released by MeitY are utilized in an effective manner. UC status is being reviewed from time to time to ascertain the utilization status of released grants to various agencies and aim the has been towards achieving zero pendency in UCs and minimum unspent balance with the grantee institutions. While appreciating the efforts of the Ministry in liquidation of Utilization Certificates amounting to Rs. 684.86 crore during the period from April 2021 to February 2022, the Committee desire that efforts shall continue in future also so as to ensure that release of subsequent grants to important Government schemes/projects is not adversely affected and gradual buildup of pendency in Utilization Certificates is strictly avoided. The Committee desire that continuous effort must be made by the Ministry towards nil pendency in UCs and minimum unspent balance with the implementing organizations/granter bodies.

### **Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR)**

3. The Committee note that during 2021-22, as against the IEBR target of Rs.1615.43 crore set at BE stage which was reduced at Rs.1518.94 crore at RE stage, the actual achievement as on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 has been Rs.1192.15 crore i.e. 78.49 per cent w.r.t. RE. The Committee have been informed that the IEBR target has been reduced by Rs.96.49 crore from BE to RE stage for the year 2021-22 owing to second spell of Covid-19 pandemic. However, the autonomous



bodies have been making efforts to exceed the targets set at RE stage as has been the case in previous years. The Committee note that an IEBR target of Rs. 1632.98 crore has been fixed for the year 2022-23. This is Rs.17.50 crore more than the target fixed at BE stage for the previous year. The Ministry are hopeful that the IEBR achievements would be more than the target fixed for the current financial year. The Committee, while appreciating that the autonomous bodies have been successful in achieving the targets, desire that they continue to make efforts to generate more IEBR so as to reduce their dependence on Government grants. The Committee hope that IEBR targets set for 2022-23 are not reduced drastically and autonomous bodies make sustained efforts to exceed the target fixed for the current financial year.

#### **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**

4. The Committee note that National Informatics Centre provides ICT support to the Government at all levels to Central Ministries/Departments, 37 States/UTs and 720+ districts. NICNET, the nationwide Network comprises over 1000 LANs of Govt. offices and more than 5 lakh nodes across over 8000 locations. The data centres of NIC host more than 8000 websites of the Government in secure environment. The Ministry have informed the Committee that NIC's main focus is in providing latest state-of-the-art ICT infrastructure. National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) provides e-Governance support, state of the art solutions to Central Government, State Governments, UT Administrations, Districts and other Government bodies. NIC plays a pivotal role in development and implementation of Digital Platforms and Applications, in close collaboration with Central and State Governments, making the last-mile delivery of Government services to the citizens a reality. NIC is upgrading its infrastructure gradually to meet the increased demand. The Committee note that during the year 2022-23, the Ministry had projected an amount of Rs.1500 crore for NIC against which Rs. 1450 crore has been allocated at BE stage. The Ministry have informed that steps are being taken to ensure the adequate availability of funds for NIC during 2022-23. The Ministry have also

informed that mainly the fund requirement under the Capital Budget has been reduced due to which the upgradation of ICT infrastructure in the Districts have to be taken up in a phased manner depending upon availability of funds. The Committee note that NIC has been an active catalyst and facilitator in e-Governance programme and digital ICT applications. It has been playing a pivotal role in the information revolution at Districts, State and national level so far as implementation of ICT projects of Government are concerned. However, it is unfortunate that the organization has been facing challenges in human resource, basic infrastructure and the scarcity of funds for the upgradation of District Centres to meet the ever increasing demand. In order to continue with their mission, NIC require constant support and encouragement.

Keeping in view the critical role played by NIC as a provider of digital infrastructure and connectivity delivering un-interrupted seamless services during such difficult times, the Committee recommend that the Ministry need to be sensitive to NIC's requirements and address the challenges faced by them, particularly infrastructure related concerns so that their ability to provide last mile delivery of Government services to the citizens gets strengthened. The Committee are disheartened to learn that in spite of their recommendation to undertake a comprehensive review of the human resource requirement and infrastructure needs of NIC, the Ministry have done little to address the above issues. The Committee once again recommend the Ministry to look into the issue of human resource shortage in NIC. With regard to infrastructure, the Committee are of the considered view that the Ministry need to impress upon the Ministry of Finance to increase allocation under the 'Capital' head for improvement of infrastructure at district level. The Committee desire the Ministry to take necessary measures to address both human resource and basic infrastructure constraints in NIC at the earliest. Keeping in view the fact that the earlier proposal for upgradation of human resource has got stuck without any tangible outcome, the Committee recommend that a fresh workable plan may be devised for addressing human resource needs of the organization by taking all stakeholders on board. The Committee may be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

### **Government Instant Messaging Service (Now named as Sandes)**

5. The Committee note that Government Instant Messaging Service (GIMS)(Now named as Sandes) is an open source, secure, cloud enabled and indigenous platform developed by NIC for instant and secured messaging among Government and citizens. The Sandes system comprises of the App Portal, the Gateway and the Web version. While replying to an earlier recommendation contained in the 30<sup>th</sup> Report of the Committee, the Ministry had informed that various e-Gov applications are being integrated with Sandes to send free and secured messages to the users. It is already registered with NIC email, DigiLocker and e-office and some of the e-gov application integrated with Sandes are e-courts, Parichay, BHUIAN (Chhatisgarh Land Records), Jeevan Praman etc. The Committee, however, note even if the service has been rolled out fully, there are not much users using the Messaging App. The Committee are also surprised to note that even when NIC developed instant App for messaging, there is widespread usage of messaging Apps such as WhatsApp in Government establishments/Departments and very little awareness about the existence of Sandes App. The Ministry have informed that Secretary, IT had written to all the Chief Secretaries of the State/UT administration and to the Secretaries of all the Ministries/ Department to adopt Sandes as official communication channel.

In this regard, the Committee, strongly recommend that due publicity within all branches of the Government may be given to Sandes to ensure that it reaches a minimum critical mass of users in order to make an impact in the already saturated instant messaging App space. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the response and feedback received from various Ministries/Departments regarding the progress made vis-à-vis adoption of Sandes as official communication platform by all concerned. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should keep trying for further improvement in the App in order to make it more user friendly and secured with advanced features.

### **Poshan Tracker**

6. The Committee note that MeitY in coordination with the Ministry of Women and Child Development have launched an important project called Poshan Tracker which is targeted about 14 lakh Anganwadi workers across the country to monitor the progress of the health condition and physical growth of children on providing nutrition to infants, young children, pregnant women and young mothers. Through this App, Anganwadi workers are able to monitor seven types of beneficiaries, viz. children up to 06 months, 6 months to 3 years, 3 years to 6 years, adolescent girl, pregnant woman and lactating mothers. The App is available in 22 languages. The Committee note that it has been developed in-house and is a nationalised system. It has also been reported that about 14 lakh Anganwadi workers have been on boarded on Poshan tracker. While appreciating the good work done by the Ministry, the Committee recommend that the reach of Poshan tracker may be increased in remote areas of the country, especially in tribal areas so that technology may be leveraged to extend benefits to maximum number of people. The Committee desire that they may be kept informed about the targets and on-field development/impact with regard to this initiative of the Ministry.

### **Regulatory Bodies**

#### **Cyber Security (CERT-In), NCCC & Data Governance**

7. The Committee note that Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India has been designated under Section 70B of the Information Technology Act 2000 to serve as the national agency in the area of cyber security incident response. CERT-In issues alert and advisories regarding latest cyber threats, vulnerabilities and counter measures to protect computers and network on regular basis. So far as the underutilization of funds under the head is concerned, an amount of Rs. 216 crore had been allocated at BE stage during 2021-22, which was reduced to Rs. 213 crore at RE stage and actual utilization till January, 2022 has been 98.31 crore only. For the year 2022-23, an amount of Rs. 215 crore have been allocated at BE stage against the proposed Rs. 263 crore for

procurement of capital IT infrastructure items as well as for establishment cost. The Committee have been informed that additional funds will be required for capital equipment for CERT-In activities and same will be sought during RE stage. The Committee have also been informed that CERT-In is in urgent need of additional human resource to keep up with the rapid increase in the incidents and cyber security issues, urgent nature of incident response activities including onsite response, to sustain key current as well as planned new activities / projects and to address cyber security issues pertaining to emerging technologies and areas. To address the challenge, CERT-In has moved a proposal for additional creation of posts at various levels.

The Committee also feel that the scope and activities of CERT-In has increased manifold of late and it needs additional human resource to deal with the rapid increase in incidents of cyber crime, cyber theft and other mischievous activities on cyber platforms. It is imperative that activities/projects ongoing as well as futuristic being carried out by Cert-In under the aegis of Ministry to address cyber security concerns, must not suffer on account of human resource shortage. The Committee desire that the issue of additional human resource requirement of CERT-In are looked into with due importance and the proposal mooted by Cert-In for additional creation of posts may be considered and taken to a logical conclusion. Regarding the requirement of capital equipment for CERT-IN, the Committee hope that the Ministry shall impress upon the Ministry of Finance for additional funds at RE stage. Further progress on both the fronts may be reported to the Committee.

#### **National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC)**

8. The Committee note that CERT-In is also setting up National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and enable timely information sharing for proactive, preventive and protective actions by individual entities. The phase I of NCCC has been operationalized in July 2017. The full scale NCCC is

envisaged to become operational by end of 2022 with expected availability of requisite funds and human resource. NCCC project has been merged with regular activities of CERT-In with effect from the F.Y. 2021-22. The budget requirement of NCCC establishment component has also been merged with regular budget of CERT-In from F.Y. 2021-22. The Committee also note that for Cyber Security (NCCC & Others), the provision of funds has been enhanced from Rs. 200 crore at BE stage to Rs 339 crore at RE Stage for the year 2021-22. Also for the year 2022-23, an amount of Rs 300 crore has been allocated at BE stage as against the amount of Rs 200 crore allocated at BE 2021-22 in view of the recommendations made by this Committee. The Committee note that CERT-In is currently undertaking various tasks for the full fledged implementation of the project and has initiated NCCC Phase-II Stage 2.

The Committee very strongly feel that there is a significant surge in cyber incidents and cyber security breaches and it is imperative that capabilities and resilience of the country to deal with imminent dangers on cyber space are enhanced proportionately. Cyber security has to remain at the forefront of agenda/priority items for the Ministry and no fund crunch should come in the way of ensuring a safe ecosystem as far as the cyberworld is concerned. In fact the Committee feel that the Ministry must dovetail their efforts to achieve a more secured cyberworld especially in the wake of renewed challenges in this space. The Committee, therefore, recommend that funds for cyber security may be increased on a year on basis to forestall any failures in this domain for sheer lack of funds. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to take all necessary measures for early setting up of full fledged NCCC so that the country is adequately equipped with infrastructure and necessary means for generating situational awareness to deal with cyber security threats and enable timely intervention. NCCC may also be provided with adequate resources and human resource on priority to deal with challenges in securing cyber space.

## **Digital India Programme**

### **Electronics Governance including Externally Aided Project (EAP)**

9. The Committee note that E-Governance is a sub-scheme under Digital India Programme which consists of various projects related to development of digital infrastructure such as State Wide Area Network(SWAN), National data Centre(NDC) & State Data Centres (SDC), MeghRaj – Government of India Cloud initiative, e-mail solution of Govt. of India, PRAGATI VC, Digital Platforms such as MyGov, Digital Locker, e-Sign, e-Hospital, National Data Highway, UMANG, NCOG, Open Government data, e-Taal, Rapid assessment System(RAS), delivery of services through CSC, web, Kiosks & Mobile platform, Digital Village and Capacity Building programme etc. Each project has its own initiation date and deadline for completion. During 2021-22, an amount of Rs. 425 crore had been allocated at BE stage which was increased to Rs. 535 crore at RE stage and actual utilization till January, 2022 has been Rs. 192.08 crore only. The Committee note that fund requirement has increased due to initiation of some new projects such as InCEP by MyGov, Secure eMail Services for Gol, Open Government Data (OGD 2.0), Enhancement of NIC National Cloud Services, etc. The Committee also note that an amount of Rs 525.0 crore has been allocated for Electronic Governance Scheme during BE 2022-23. It has also been informed that due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic only essential new projects are being initiated and funds will be released to implementing agencies taking into consideration the status of pending UC and unspent balances with them. Keeping in view that several mission mode projects are being implemented to provide digital infrastructure for efficient delivery of e-services, shortfall in utilization of fund under e-Governance is a matter of concern. The Committee recommend the Ministry to address the challenges being faced under the scheme and ensure that funds allocated for 2022-23 are utilized fully.

10. The Committee note that the primary challenges faced for implementation of Electronics Governance Scheme are digital literacy and digital connectivity. Besides these challenges, the digital divide gap is also attributed to the fact that

many citizens belonging to the weaker sections are deprived of availing the digital services. To tackle these challenges, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Shaksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) has been implemented to usher in digital literacy in rural areas with the objective of covering six crore rural households and BharatNet project with the aim to connect all 2.50 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. The Committee note that the Ministry are implementing various projects under E-Governance to provide digital infrastructure for delivery of e-services. Successful implementation of the scheme squarely depends on the digital literacy and digital connectivity. The Committee while acknowledging the efforts made by Government through the implementation of PMGDISHA exhort the Ministry to aggressively take all out steps to usher in digital literacy in the country especially rural areas. On the progress of the implementation of digital literacy scheme like PMGDISHA, the Committee are hopeful that substantial number of people must have been trained. However, it remains to be seen to that extent, the programme has been successful in ushering in digital literacy in the country. In the absence of any parameters to assess its impacts, it is difficult to objectively assess the benefits of the programme. Since the success of electronics governance greatly depends on the digital literacy and digital connectivity in the country, the Committee recommend that constant effort must be made by the Ministry by involving State Governments, NGOs and various entities for providing the requisite training.

#### **e-Governance-DIGILOCKER**

11. The Committee note that Digital Locker provides a dedicated cloud based platform as a personal space to residents for storage, sharing, verification of documents & certificates. The Committee note that 9.22 crore users have been registered and 486 crore documents issued by the Department are available with Digital Locker. The Committee appreciate the initiatives taken by the Ministry with respect to 'DigiLocker'. While acknowledging the fact that DigiLocker by itself is a very potent instrument for enabling people to do away with the need to carry or look for paper records or look for printed certificates, and completely switch over



to a digital way of working, the Committee also observe that 'privacy' remains a very important concern for the public at large. The Committee also note that it is an attempt to create convenience on the lines of Aadhaar as digital identity rather than a physical card. The Committee are given to understand that more and more State Governments have issued instructions and use of DigiLocker is going up progressively. DigiLocker is also facilitating setting up of eHealth Locker in the country. While taking note of the numerous benefits under the initiative, the Committee strongly recommend that privacy of individuals using 'DigiLocker' may be given top priority by the Ministry. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to make an effort to popularise Digital Locker so as to increase its user base. Further, when the country is moving toward One Nation, one digital platform for each of the core areas through initiatives such as DigiLocker, Digital Health Mission, National Public Digital Platform in Health, education, agriculture, e-courts and justice platforms, etc. securing the data services for seamless flow of information across sectors becomes very important. The Committee are given to understand that National Data Centre Policy and Hyper Scale Data Centre Schemes are ready. The Ministry already had an inter-ministerial consultation. The Committee desire that the above policies may be finalized and the schemes are concretized in a definite time frame.

#### **Manpower Development Scheme**

12. The Committee note that under the Manpower Development Scheme, the activities are targeted to ensure availability of trained human resources for the manufacturing & service sectors of electronic and IT industry. Various schemes/projects pertaining to Human Resource Development for Electronics and ICT Sector have been approved and are under implementation. The Committee have been informed that during 2021-22, out of 3 lakh candidate targeted, 2.50 lakh candidates have been trained and utilized so far. A skill development target of 3.30 lakh candidates is proposed for the year 2022-23. With regard to utilization of funds, the Committee note that an amount of Rs. 400 crore had been allocated at BE & RE 2021-22 and actual utilization as on 31.01.2022 has

been Rs. 85.15 crore only i.e. 21 per cent of the RE. During 2022-23, an amount of Rs. 350 crore has been allocated at BE against the proposed amount of Rs. 450 crore. The Committee also note that MeitY and NASSCOM have jointly conceived a new initiative titled "FutureSkills PRIME (Programme for Re-skilling/up-skilling ecosystem of IT Manpower for Employability)", which aims at creating a "re-skilling/up-skilling eco system for B2C in 10 new/emerging technologies such as virtual reality, Internet of Things, Big Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Robotic Process Automation, Additive Manufacturing/3D Printing, Cloud Computing, Social & Mobile, Cyber Security and Block chain, etc. to facilitate continuous skill as well as knowledge enhancement of professionals in line with their aspirations and aptitude in a self-paced skill environment. Out of 4.12 lakh beneficiaries envisaged, 108436 candidates have completed their courses.

The Committee note that Manpower Development Scheme is an important initiative by the Ministry to ensure availability of trained human resource for the manufacturing and service sector of electronics and IT industry. The Committee are, however, concerned to note that the status of utilization till January, 2022 under this scheme during 2021-22 has been abysmally low i.e. only 21 per cent of the amount allocated at RE. Certainly with this pace of utilization of fund, milestone achievement in human resource development seems a distant dream. The Committee desire the Ministry to ensure optimum utilization of funds during 2022-23 and achieve the target for skill development of 3.30 lakh candidates. With regard to future skills PRIME, the Committee are of the view that due to the rapidly developing nature of electronics and IT Industry, re-skilling of workforce in IT becomes very important. The Committee feel that in order to reap the benefits of the digital economy, it is essential that the country must have well trained and skilled human resource. The Committee desire that the Ministry increase collaboration with NASSCOM in the field of skill development, especially in areas of new and emerging technologies. The Committee may be kept informed of the progress made in this regard.

### **National Knowledge Network (NKN)**

13. The Committee note that the objective of the National Knowledge Network (NKN) is to inter-connect all knowledge institutions across the country through high speed data communications network to encourage sharing of resources and collaborative research. A high speed data communication network has been established to inter-connect institutions of higher learning and research. 1752 links to institutions have been commissioned and made operational. 522 NKN links have been connected to NIC district centres across India. The Committee also note that NKN is the backbone network for all e-Governance initiatives in the country. In addition to educational institutions, NKN connects four National Data Centres (NDCs), 31 State Data Centres (SDCs), 30 SWANs State-wide Area Networks (SWANs), Ministries, Departments, and Mission oriented agencies, which include S&T, DRDO, Earth Sciences, Space, ICAR, MHRD, etc. The Ministry have informed the Committee that Digital Information Infoway (DII) which is the next phase of NKN is at advanced stage of approval. DII would address the need of effective Governance and facilitate collaboration and knowledge resource sharing among the Research and Educational institutions. The Committee note that against the proposed amount of Rs. 786 crore, an amount of Rs. 650 crore has been allocated at BE stage for NKN during 2022-23. The Committee have been informed that efforts would be made to seek additional funds in the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

The Committee are of the view that National Knowledge Network is fulfilling the twin objectives of providing robust and reliable network on the one hand and free access to information and knowledge to enrich knowledge in the country on the other hand. The Committee are of the view that the successful implementation of the project will strengthen the infrastructure for providing high speed backbone connectivity and stimulate research by facilitating knowledge sharing among the collaborative institutions. The Committee desire that the approval for next phase of NKN, i.e. Digital Information Infoway (DII) to create a unified Government Network which is at advance stage may be taken at the earliest.

Since NKN is also the backbone network for all e-governance initiatives in the country, it is imperative that NKN must be strengthened for successful implementation of e-governance initiatives. In this regard, the Committee recommend the Ministry to take all necessary measures for allocation of requisite funds for successful implementation of this scheme during the current financial year.

### **Promotion of Electronics and IT Hardware Manufacturing**

#### **PLI for Large Scale Electronics and IT Hardware**

14. The Committee note that a budget of Rs. 4056 crore has been earmarked for 2022-23 for PLI Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing and PLI Scheme for IT Hardware. The two Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes offer production linked incentives to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in Mobile Phones & Specified Electronic Components, and IT Hardware respectively. Under the PLI Scheme for Mobile Phones & Specified Electronic Components notified on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020, incentives of 6% to 3% shall be extended on incremental sales (over the base year 2019-20) of goods manufactured in India and covered under the target segment to eligible companies for a period of five years. The Committee note that PLI scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing (Mobile Phones and Components) has been a huge success in terms of immense interest received from Global as well as Domestic Mobile Manufacturing companies. Over the next 5 years, the Scheme is expected to lead to total production of about INR 10.5 lakh crore. The scheme is also expected to boost exports significantly. Out of the total production, more than 60% is expected to be contributed by exports of the order of INR 6.5 lakh crore. The Scheme will bring additional investment in electronics manufacturing to the tune of INR 11,000 crore. PLI Scheme will also help in promotion of domestic champion companies by reviving Indian Brands and strengthening Indian EMS companies.

**The Committee further note that Union Cabinet has approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for IT Hardware on 24.02.2021 in 10 key sectors, including Electronic/Technology Products, for enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities and exports. The Committee have been informed that a total of 14 companies have been approved under the PLI Scheme for IT Hardware. Under this Scheme incentives of 4% to 2% shall be extended on incremental sales (over the base year 2019-20) of goods manufactured in India and covered under the target segments of Laptops, Servers, Tablets and All-in-One PCs to eligible companies for a period of four years. Over the next 4 years, the 14 approved companies under the Scheme are expected to lead to total production of about INR 1,60,000 crore. Out of the total production of INR 1,60,000 crore in the next 4 years, more than 37 per cent is expected to be contributed by exports of the order of INR 60,000 crore. The scheme is expected to bring an additional investment in electronics manufacturing to the tune of INR 2,500 crore. Generation of 36,066 additional direct jobs and four times indirect employment is expected under the PLI Scheme for IT Hardware.**

**The Committee note that while the Ministry are taking a number of initiatives for the promotion of electronics IT hardware manufacturing including the PLI Schemes to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in mobile and specific components of IT hardware, these have not been able to create that much impact in boosting the domestic manufacturing as the country still remains a net importer of electronics including telecom equipment. The Committee note that electronics manufacturing is one of the most important pillars of Digital India and manufacturing sector needs a continuous push with overall thrust on promotion of 'Make in India'. Apart from domestic value addition, this will contribute to GDP and employment generation. The Committee recommend that both the schemes are implemented in right earnest so that demand for electronic hardware is met through domestic production and India emerges as a global hub for electronic hardware manufacturing. The Committee are hopeful that the above two schemes will enable large scale electronics manufacturing, domestic supply chain of components and facilitate building of**

state of the art infrastructure for electronics ecosystem. The Committee recommend that the PLI scheme is implemented in a time bound manner and vigorous screening of the companies applying for the two PLI schemes may be done so as to avoid any defaulter in the long run. The Committee may be apprised of the targets achieved under these schemes.

#### **Programme for development of Semiconductors and Display manufacturing ecosystem**

15. The Committee note that in furtherance of the vision of AatmaNirbhar Bharat, the Union Cabinet has approved Semicon India programme of INR 76,000 crore for the development of sustainable semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem in the country. The programme aims at providing attractive incentive support to companies engaged in semiconductor and display manufacturing. This shall pave the way for India's technological leadership in these areas of strategic importance and economic self-reliance. The Committee note that four schemes have been introduced under the aforesaid programme, namely, Scheme for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs in India, Scheme for setting up of Display Fabs in India, Scheme for setting up of Compound Semiconductors / Silicon Photonics / Sensors Fab and Semiconductor Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) / OSAT facilities in India, and Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme . In addition to these schemes, the Committee have been informed that Government has also approved modernisation of Semiconductor Laboratory, Mohali as a brownfield Fab. Further, approval has also been granted for the setting up of India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) as an Independent Business Division within Digital India Corporation having administrative and financial autonomy to drive India's strategies for developing semiconductors and display manufacturing ecosystem. Envisioned to be led by global experts in the Semiconductor and Display industry, the ISM will serve as the nodal agency for efficient, coherent and smooth implementation of the schemes. The Committee have been informed that the strength of India lies in semiconductors design. India is designing for the companies that comes from outside but are not making our own IP design and competing with the other

companies. The Committee also note that semiconductor lab has been transferred from the Department of Space to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

The Committee note that semiconductors manufacturing in India is at a nascent stage and the country is yet to make a foray into this sector. There is an urgent need to promote semiconductors manufacturing facilities in the country. It is a matter of concern that so far no Indian company is manufacturing semiconductors in India though the strength of the country lies in semiconductor design. The Committee are of the view that at a time when there is global shortage of semiconductors and chips, the Government's policy to incentivise the semiconductor and display design sector assumes great significance. This is also in tune with the vision of National Policy on Electronics, 2019 to position India as a global hub for electronics design and manufacturing with semiconductor and chip designing at its core. The Committee recommend that the Ministry create an enabling environment for semiconductor ecosystem by coordinating with all the stakeholders so as to facilitate production of semiconductors within the country. The significance of semiconductors in other related fields like automobiles, weapon systems, etc. is well known and keeping in view the future requirements of the economy, the Committee feel that the project deserves focussed attention of the Ministry. The Committee may be apprised of the progress made under each component of the scheme,

#### R&D in IT/Electronics/CCBT

##### The National Language Translation Mission

16. The Committee note that R&D in IT/Electronics/CCBT projects is being implemented in academic and R&D institutions. During 2021-22, an amount of Rs.700 crore had been allocated at BE as well as at RE and actual utilization as on 31st January, 2021 has been Rs.329.79 crore only *i.e.* 47 per cent of the allocation made at RE. The Committee have been informed that most of the academic institutions remained non-functional due to Covid-19 pandemic, resulting in the delay in utilization and under utilization of Grant-in-Aid released to these institutions. For the year 2022-23, an amount of Rs.598.12 crore has been

allocated at BE against the proposed amount of Rs.1422.20 crore. The Committee have been informed that a pilot project for NLTM was initiated for developing proto-type Speech Technologies for Indian English, Tamil, Hindi languages for English-Hindi; English-Marathi; Hindi-Telugu language pairs and Optical Character Recognition system for Kannada language. The National Language Translation Mission Bhashini has also been conceptualized to extend the above effort to 22 scheduled languages and is being initiated which aims at removing language barrier among all major Indian languages, particularly in the domains of governance-and-policy, science and engineering, education, healthcare etc. Under the Mission a National Public Digital Platform is proposed to be developed. The Ministry have stated that due to Covid19 pandemic, pending UCs against the implementing agency and the budget cut occurred for all the schemes including R&D in IT/Electronics/CCBT scheme, the projects prioritized are progressing accordingly. The major impediment under NLTM is having a sufficient amount of language datasets for 22 recognized Indian Languages to build the AI based translation models. In this regard state language Missions are planned to be initiated along with crowd sourcing efforts for datasets. The National Language Translation Mission has been approved and a call for R&D proposals was made to implement the Mission and consequently recommended projects are being initiated. In order to initiate and sustain the Mission, the Ministry have requested that adequate budget outlay be allocated to TDIL Programme so that language computing tools and translation technologies could be developed in a time-targeted manner. Highlighting the usefulness and end goal of the project, the Ministry informed the Committee during evidence that an illiterate grandmother in one part of the country should be able to speak to her counterpart with totally different language in other part of the country, and hopefully in real time also in near future. With regard to the timeline, the Committee have been informed that the Mission has a seven year goal, but it might be completed in the next 2-3 years.

The Committee note that NLTM indeed is a pioneering initiative undertaken by the Ministry and early completion of this project will greatly help in



overcoming language barriers for people residing in various parts of the country. The Committee feel that making the content available in the domain of governance and policy, science and engineering, education, healthcare, etc. will immensely benefit not only the common masses but also students and scholars pursuing studies in their regional languages. Since most of the content relating to the various subjects are in English, development of such an App will be a welcome initiative for bringing about an educational revolution in the country, apart from various other benefits. The Committee while recommending the Ministry to take measures for timely completion of this project also urge that adequate budget be allocated so that the project could be implemented in a time bound manner. The Committee also desire that this application should be extended to various institutions in the country like Parliament, State Legislative Bodies, Government offices, etc. They further desire that this should also be extended to Indian Embassies across the world so that citizens of the country can avail various services in their regional languages. Efforts should also be made to put the system into use in the tourism sector so that its true potentials can be harnessed.

### **Promotion of Digital Payments**

17. The Committee note that digital payments have significantly increased in recent years as a result of coordinated efforts of the Government with all stakeholders. The total transaction volume increased from 2,071 crore in FY 2017-18 to 5,554 crore in FY 2020-21. In FY 2021-22, total 6,380 crore digital payment transactions have been achieved, till 02.02.2022 (as per DIGIDHAN Dashboard). The Committee, while acknowledging the substantial increase in digital payments in the recent years, exhort the Ministry to take aggressive steps to ensure safe and secure digital payments so as to provide a safer ecosystem for the common citizen of the country. The Committee in their 30<sup>th</sup> Report had expressed their concern that there is a lack of unified approach in dealing with cases pertaining to digital payments and with increasing digital/online transactions, there is an urgent need to adopt a unified approach by way of

having a centralized nodal agency/helpline to deal with all the cases pertaining to digital/online transactions which would not only help the victims of payments related cyber crimes but also help in faster resolution of such cases. The Committee had also recommended regarding provision of insurance coverage to the victims of cyber crime. In this regard the Ministry had informed the Committee that a meeting will soon be convened with MHA and Ministry of Finance (MoF) on these aspects and devise suitable mechanisms to make the digital payments ecosystem more safe, secure and trustworthy for the citizens. The Committee desire that they may be informed about the outcome of the inter-ministerial meeting and reiterate that concrete confidence building measures may be taken by the Ministry to instill confidence in the common citizenry with regard to secure digital payments.

#### **Unique Identity Development Authority of India (UIDAI)**

18. The Committee note that UIDAI has been allocated an amount of Rs. 1110 crore at BE for the year 2022-23 as against the proposed amount of Rs. 1623.19 crore. The Committee have also been informed that the allocation may not be sufficient to meet the requirement of UIDAI in view of hiring of new Managed Service Providers for various UIDAI services, tech refresh of Data Centres (DC's), opening of new Aadhaar Sewa Kendras in various cities and higher volume of enrolment in North Eastern Region. The Ministry have stated that MoF would be requested to provide additional funds at appropriate stage based on the utilization of funds. The Committee are given to understand that there is almost an 85 per cent increase in the allocation as compared to last year. The Committee note that UIDAI's equipment was about 10-12 years old which needed to be replaced and UIDAI at this point are in the midst of technology refresh cycle. So, this year as well as next year, UIDAI are being supported with a higher allocation to enable them to upgrade their hardware as well as the software and other cyber security and other measures around their systems. The Committee note that Aadhaar generation and updation is an ongoing process. Of late, Aadhaar has

become a primary requirement for availing various services especially Government welfare schemes. The importance of Aadhaar for providing good governance, efficient, transparent and targeted delivery of services has been increasingly emphasized by the Government. In this context, the Committee expect the Ministry to pursue the matter with the Ministry of Finance for adequate budgetary support to UIDAI in the coming fiscal years so that their crucial services and projects do not suffer. The Committee may also be informed about the progress of ongoing technology upgradation in UIDAI.

New Delhi;  
16 March, 2022  
25 Phalguna, 1943 (Saka)

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR,**  
Chairperson,  
Standing Committee on Communications  
and Information Technology.

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2021-22) HELD  
ON 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022**

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The Committee sat on Friday, the 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 from 1415 hours to 1600 hours in Committee Room '2', Extension to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**Dr. Shashi Tharoor – Chairperson**

**MEMBERS**

***Lok Sabha***

2. Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse
3. Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore
4. Shri Sanjay Seth
5. Dr. Anil Agrawal
6. Shri John Brittas

***Rajya Sabha***

7. Shri Suresh Gopi
8. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain
9. Shri Syed Zafar Islam
10. Shri Jawhar Sircar

**SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                       |   |                  |
|----|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Y.M. Kandpal     | - | Joint Secretary  |
| 2. | Dr. Sagarika Dash     | - | Director         |
| 3. | Shri Shangreiso Zimik | - | Deputy Secretary |

## **Representatives of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Shri Ajay Prakash Sawhney	Secretary
2.	Shri Anil Kumar Nayak	AS&FA
3.	Shri Shahid Ahmed	DDG, NIC
4.	Smt. Vidushi Chaturvedi	DDG, UIDAI
5.	Shri Vinay Thakur	Dy. CEO
6.	Shri Bhuvnesh Kumar	Joint Secretary
7.	Shri Saurabh Gaur	Joint Secretary
8.	Dr. Jaideep Kumar Mishra	Joint Secretary
9.	Shri S.K. Marwaha	Scientist 'G' & Group Coordinator
10.	Dr. Sanjay Bahl	DG (CERT-In)
11.	Ms. Simmi Chaudhary	Economic Adviser & Group Coordinator
12.	Shri Shobhendra Bahadur	Director

2. After the welcome address by the Chairperson, the representative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology made a power-point presentation covering aspects such as mandate of the Ministry, key organizations, the journey so far under Digital India initiative, initiatives taken in 2021-22 and plan for 2022-23 alongwith Demands for Grants for 2022-23. The Ministry highlighted the Government's Digital India Programme with the objective to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy by way of establishing Digital Infrastructure, On-demand Digital Services, and Digital Empowerment.

3. The Ministry informed the Committee about initiatives such as 'DigiLocker-Scaling for Universalisation of Paperless Governance', 'UMANG- Scaling for Universalisation of M-Governance', 'Poshan Tracker' 'NLTM- National Language Translation Mission' and 'One Nation,One Digital Platform' etc. The Ministry also highlighted the progress under COVID related initiatives such as CoWIN, myGOV, esanjeevani app, National Public Digital platform in Health etc. The Ministry explained in detail the challenges in the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) which has been a major part of Ministry's activity for which significant amount has been allocated

in the budget. The Ministry informed that National Data Centre Policy and Hyper scale Data Centre scheme is ready which will help the country become global data centre hub.

4. The Committee were further informed that the Union Cabinet has approved a scheme for development of semiconductors and the display ecosystem in the country. The scheme will fuel the semi conductor eco-system and help in modernization and Upgradation of semi-conductor laboratory. The Committee were apprised that National Cyber Co-ordination Centre has been ramped up and more funds have been allocated for Cyber Security as compared to the past five years. The Committee were assured that funds will be further augmented, if required. It was also informed that there has been increase in provisioning for UIDAI on account of replacement of old equipment and upgradation of their hardware, software and cyber security needs.

5. Members, then sought clarifications on issues such as reduced allocation *vis-à-vis* proposed amount, under-utilization of the budget allocation during the last year, impact of reduced allocation on the ongoing schemes such as Manpower Development, CERT-In, Digital Payments, R&D in IT etc. The Members also raised queries on privacy issues in Digilocker, visibility of SANDESH app, and applications received under PLI Scheme etc. Expressing concern over security issues and less number of applications received under the scheme, Members made some suggestions regarding effective roll-out of Production Linked Scheme (PLI) and expressed concerns about the security issues *vis-a-vis* applications created by the Ministry. The Ministry took note of the concerns and suggestions made by the Committee.

6. The Committee on being informed about the superannuation of Secretary, MeitY placed on record their deep appreciation for the co-operation and support extended by him to the Committee throughout examination of subjects selected and wished him a happy and healthy post retired life.

7. The Chairperson, then, thanked the representatives of the Ministry for deposing before the Committee.

The witnesses then withdrew.

Verbatim Proceedings of the sitting have been kept on record.

**The Committee, then, adjourned.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY (2021-22)**

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE**  
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The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 from 0930 hours to 1050 hours in Committee Room B, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**Dr. Shashi Tharoor -Chairperson**

**MEMBERS**

***Lok Sabha***

2. Shri Santosh Pandey
3. Ms. Mahua Moitra
4. Shri P. R. Natarajan
5. Col . Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
6. Ms. Locket Chatterjee
7. Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
8. Smt. Sunita Duggal
9. Dr. Sukanta Majumdar
10. Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh

***Rajya Sabha***

11. Shri Y. S. Chowdary
12. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain
13. Shri Syed Zafar Islam
14. Dr. Anil Aggarwal
15. Shri John Brittas
16. Shri Suresh Gopi

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri Y.M. Kandpal - Joint Secretary
2. Dr. Sagarika Dash - Director
3. Shri Shangreiso Zimik - Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened to consider and adopt Draft Reports on Demands for Grants (2022-23) relating to the Ministries/Departments under their jurisdiction.

3. The Committee, then, took up the following draft Reports for consideration and adoption:

- (i) ...xxx...xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx...;
- (ii) ...xxx...xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx...;
- (iii) ...xxx...xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx... xxx...; and
- (iv) Draft Report on Demands for Grants (2022-23) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

4. After due deliberations, the Committee adopted the Report with slight modifications.

5. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize the draft Report arising out of factual verification, if any, and present the Reports to the House during the current Session of Parliament.

**The Committee, then, adjourned.**

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...xxx...Matters not related to the Report.