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F.No. 11-75/2013.Sch.-5
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
(School-5 Section)

New Delhi, Shastri Bhawan
Dated : 17.06.2014

Subject: National Policy on Information & Communication Technology in School Education to adopt free & open source software (FOSS) Regarding.


Sir/Madam,

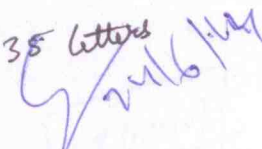
The undersigned is directed to refer herewith to a letter received in the Ministry of Human Resource Development on the subject mentioned above and to say that attention of MHRD has been called to the National Policy on Information Communication Technology (NPICT) in School Education, All Central/State SSC/HSC Boards, CBSE & ICSC Boards prescribe ICT papers. It has been observed that many of the State's SSC/HSC Boards have ICT subject in their curriculums and conduct the examination on ICT papers. Software like Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, M.S. Window, M.S. Office software has been made mandatory for framing and answering in the examination by the Boards and a huge amount is spent for acquiring proprietary software by the affiliated schools. This decision of Boards etc. is not in line with NPICT in school education. There is a concern that the amount spent on acquiring proprietary licensed software is recovered from the students, which brings a serious implication on poor and needy students.

2. As you are aware that the national ICT policy in School Education underlines a preference to adopt free and open source software-opening system and software application in order to expand the range of learning, creation and sharing. The ICT Curriculum developed by NCERT for the ICT@ Schools Scheme of the MHRD is based on a Free and Open Source Platform and includes an operating system with pre-installed software for all application. State Government is advised to adopt the ICT Curriculum and model your syllabi around this curriculum.

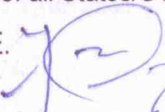
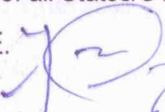
3. In the light of above you may consider ^{an} advisory to be issued to all educational bodies in the States/UT, to guide and suggest multiple and generic alternatives for the ICT content and to prefer free and open source alternatives, making ICT education cost effective and ethical.

4. The action taken report may be furnished to this Ministry at the earliest.


(Subhendu Das)
Under Secretary (RMSA-1)

To ✓ Education Secretary (All States/UTs) ^{35 letters} 

Copy to:-

1. RMSA State Project Director of all States/UTs
2. P.A. Inamdar, Member C.A.B.E. 
3. Joint Director, CIET/NCERT 

23/6/14