

# **PUNJAB ICT EDUCATION SOCIETY**

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To

**Ms. Talish Ray,  
Software Freedom Low Center,  
K-9, Second Floor, Birbal Road,  
Jangpura Extention, New Delhi-110014**

Memo no. : 5/11-ICT-2011/RTI/011853


Date : 07.12.2011

**Subject:- Regarding information under RTI Act 2005.**

1. Reference to your letter no. Nil dated 20.10.2011 and 21.11.2011.

<b>Sr. No</b>	<b>Requested Information</b>	<b>Reply</b>
1.	Kindly provide the details of the objection put forth by Shri J.S Bhatia, Director C-DAC on the issue of replacement of "EDUBOSS" Software with Microsoft Operating system.	Copy of representation of C-DAC attached at Annexure 'A'.
2.	Please provide the details of the reasons stated for side lining C-DAC's objections.	The decision for switch over from Eduboss to Microsoft was taken in the meeting chaired by the Secretary School Education which has been ractified by the Chief Secretary and Board of Governors of the PICTES.
3.	Did the officials of your department communicate formally with your counterparts in Tamil Nadu to get a review.If so, kindly provide a copy of such correspondence.	No
4.	With reference to the proforma containing the comparison of cost between "Microsoft" and "EDUBOSS", please explain how the same was arrived at, with special reference to the notional increase in expenditure of Rs. 796 lakhs and the figures given regarding the wastage of public money due to non-continuing of Microsoft. Please provide the tabulation sheets and file notes in the regard.	The RTI Act does not require the Public Information Officer to deduce some conclusion from the 'material' and supply the 'conclusion' so deduced to the applicant. It means that the public information officer is required to supply the 'material' in the form as held by the Public Authority, but not to do research on behalf of the citizen to deduce anything from the material and then supply it to him.

5.	Please provide details of Operating system and other software applications being purchased along with it and the cost incurred for the same.	<p>Following Softwares have been purchased for Phase I, Phase II &amp; Phase IV ICT schools :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewal of PIL (Upgradation from Windows Home Addition to Window XP, Visual Studio Dot net, MS Office 2010)</li> <li>• Windows Server 2008 R2 Standard OLPAE</li> <li>• Windows Server CAL 2008 OLP AE</li> <li>• Windows Remote Desktop CAL 2008 OLPAE</li> <li>• The total cost incurred for these softwares is approx Rs. 3.78 Crores.</li> </ul>
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**Public Information Officer**  
**Punjab ICT Education Society**  
**Punjab, Chandigarh**

September 21, 2011  
CDAC/BOSS/PICTES/2011-12/07

Shri Subodh C. Agrawal, IAS  
Chief Secretary, Punjab

Subject: Deployment of EduBOSS Linux In Govt. Schools in Punjab (PICTES & EDUSAT)

Dear Sh. Agrawal Ji,

This is in continuation to our letter CDAC/BOSS/PICTES/2011-12/06 dated Aug 29, 2011 to Sh. Hussan Lal, IAS wherein we had requested for a meeting to reconsider the said subject again and discuss on various facts regarding implementation of BOSS Linux of Punjab.

I take liberty of highlighting some of the aspects in favor of BOSS Linux which are brought out below for your kind consideration.

1. In July 2007, Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, Government of India had initiated a major National programme for spread of Open Source Softwares/Applications. National Resource Centre for Free and Open Source Software Solution (NRCFOSS) as part of its deliverables, has come out with an Indian version of GNU/Linux distribution named as Bharat Operating System Solutions (BOSS) which supports various Indian languages (22).
2. In April 2011, Honorable Kapil Sibal, Minister of Human Resource and Development and Information Technology, had inaugurated the latest version of EduBOSS Linux Operating System for School Education. As part of a National program for promotion of EduBOSS Linux (a customized version of BOSS Linux for school education), CDAC Mohali has been instrumental in developing a base in schools and colleges in the northern region, particularly Punjab and Haryana.
3. The process of deployment of EduBOSS Linux in **PICTES, Punjab** commenced long back in September 2008 by Sh. Krishan Kumar, IAS (DGSE, Punjab) as a pilot run in two districts Mohali & Patiala. BOSS Linux Operating System was considered at par with the existing by various categories of officers including the teachers also. A survey was conducted and feedback was taken from schools where BOSS Linux was installed in the two pilot districts, after that in February 2010 Sh. Gurinder Singh Grewal, IAS (Secretary, School Education) directed to implement EduBOSS

Linux Operating System in all the Government upper primary schools (4,965) of Phase I-III of PICTES for the next academic session 2011-12 as the Microsoft licenses were going to expire by March 2011.

4. The systems purchased in April 2010 for PICTES Phase-IV were already preinstalled with EduBOSS Operating System. C-DAC Mohali also prepared the Manuals/Course Books for classes VI-XIIth based on EduBOSS Linux in Punjabi and English by the end of July 2010. Meanwhile in October 2010, the training was organized at school level for all the computer teachers (6600) for obtaining knowledge on EduBOSS Linux.
5. After evaluating the performance of the EduBOSS Operating System in Punjab Schools, the Sh. Vijendra Kumar, IAS, DGSE Haryana signed a MOU for five years with C-DAC and ordered the EduBOSS Linux for their 2637 schools having more than 58,000 machines. The same has been implemented successfully in August 2011.

Now, with reference to the memo no. 2/12-ICT-2011/C-DAC/8673 dated August 08, 2011 from Department of School Education, Punjab, a decision was made in the meeting under the chairmanship of Sh. C. Roul, IAS, Principal Secretary, School Education along with new DGSE, Sh. B. Purushartha, IAS, that the Department of School Education, Punjab will go with the implementation of Microsoft Operating System in the Labs set up under ICT Project in Govt. Schools of Punjab. This particular decision was taken without C-DAC Mohali knowledge and this decision has two major implications:

1. *Burden of around 7 Crores for renewal of Microsoft licenses on Punjab Government.*
2. *A huge monetary and man-hours loss to Government of India as they left no stone unturned to get the deployment/installation done in time. Even the course books had been prepared within the time limit so that the students don't suffer in the pretext of not getting the books in their next academic year 2011-12.*

The department has given us various orders to deploy/implement the EduBOSS Linux in all the schools of the State and despite having lots of conversations/progress reports/completion reports on the said issue, the department has changed the operating system without even taking C-DAC opinion. Since, this is a project funded by DIT, Government of India the cost involved in installation and training was huge. There is a question being raised by Govt. of India about the shift to Microsoft after BOSS Linux being deployed successfully in all districts of Punjab.

Similarly, in the second case, **Punjab EDUSAT Society** is in process of setting up EDUSAT Labs in Senior Secondary Schools of Punjab (having approx. 89,000 nodes)

to deliver video and audio lectures / presentations for the students. In Feb 2011, a decision has been taken under the Chairmanship of your goodself along with Sh. C. Roul, IAS, Principal Secretary, School Education, Sh. Dalip Kumar, IAS, Director, DoIT Punjab and Sh Krishan Kumar, IAS, DGSE Punjab & Sh Vijendra Kumar, IAS, DGSE Haryana that EDUSAT labs will be on CDAC BOSS Operating System.

After this decision, the tender for EDUSAT Labs was floated only for hardware equipments excluding the mention of any Operating System. The same memo no. Dated August 08, 2011 from Department of School Education, Punjab, stated that only two districts need to be on BOSS Linux whereas others on Microsoft. A very vague decision of 2 districts versus 20 districts popped up, whereas no trails were had to check the performance on both the Operating Systems. I would like to mention here that if two districts are installed successfully and the same is replicated in other districts, 30-40 Crores of rupees would be saved.

Various orders/communications undertaken from the Punjab PICTES & EDUSAT Societies are enclosed herewith as Annexure for more references.

It is again requested that a meeting should be arranged immediately along with the official of Finance, DIT and Education to reconsider the subject. Please look into the matter so that the initiative made by the Government of India to promote Open Source (BOSS) is adhered to.

With warm regards,

  
(J S BHATIA)  
Executive Director

CC:

**Sh. Shri R. Chandrashekhar, IAS**  
Secretary, DIT, Government of India

**Sh. A. R. Talwar, IAS**  
Principal Secretary, DIT, Punjab

**Sh. K B S Sidhu, IAS**  
Principal Secretary, Finance, Punjab

**Sh. Hussan Lal, IAS**  
Secretary, School Education, Punjab