

CHAPTER IX

Development of Information Technology

A. IT Infrastructure :

- The Computer Centre in the Ministry is equipped with Windows-NT servers, pentium based client systems, a scanner for document imaging operations. In addition to these, the centre is also equipped with Local Area Network(LAN) equipments such as switches & hubs, which serve as a backbone for accessing information on Ministry-wide Local Area Network (LAN), Internet as well as operating Intranet based applications in the Ministry;
- Apart from NIC Central facility, about 90 pentium based client systems capable of handling present day Windows based software and office automation suits are operational with officials and Desks/Sections in the Ministry;
- A LAN of about 90 nodes is operational in the Ministry and is being extensively used for sharing of files/documents, collecting information/material on annual reports, parliament questions, monthly DOs on the performance of PSUs from Sections/Desks as well as for sending replies to parliament questions and their onward transmission through E-mail to Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha;
- Facilities for sending electronic mail (E-mail) and surfing on Internet have been provided to all officials/Desks/Sections in the Ministry.

B. E-Governance Applications

- As part of e-governance programme, the Ministry-wide Intranet portal (<http://nt-steel/>) has been established for e-submission of indents for monthly stationary items, application for casual leave as well as to share and disseminate information among the users of the Ministry;
- A single-window service has been provided for accessing the Intranet portal with simplified browser-based interfaces from the desk of users in the Ministry;

- The portal facilitates on-line lodging of General Administration related complaints by Sections/Desks in the Ministry;
- The facility for downloading of forms for sanction of leave and advances, medical re-imburement; ACRs; identity card, staff car booking; income tax; telephone list(English & Hindi), E-mail address directory of officials/Sections/Desks in the Ministry, organisation chart, activity list and training material in downloadable format on Windows-98, MS-Word, MS-Access, MS-Excel and Power Point has also been made available for all the officers/staff in the Ministry;
- Personal Corner for employee's profile, salary statement, GPF statement, income tax calculation sheet, Bulletin Board Service for Office Memoranda, Office Orders and Office Circulars and flash of deputation vacancies/posts in Govt. of India and news flash from leading news papers and Steel Highlights on steel sector are available on the intranet.
- The Intranet portal also provides interface for accessing computer based systems in the area of tracking of important references and providing periodic feedback on the progress of a reference, tracking of files in record room and cataloguing of books in the Library, Steel Room booking and Facilitation Counter enquiry and grievance monitoring.

C. **Steel Statistics**

- Steel Statistics in the area of steel production, steel exports and imports, apparent consumption, demand & availability, market prices and market analysis are also available.

D. **Ministry's Official Website**

- The Ministry's Web-site(<http://steel.nic.in>), in bilingual format on Internet is also available to provide information on administrative setup, major activities of the Ministry, the policy framework, Annual Reports, overview of the steel sector, development since 1991, links to Ministry's PSUs and attached offices, Research & Technology Mission and Officials handling grievances in the Ministry and it's PSUs has also been provided to give a wide coverage of information on Steel Sector.

E. **Training**

- As part of e-governance, various training programmes are organised on LAN operations, E-mail and browsing operations on Internet and Window-based Office Automation Suits. These training programmes have been organised in-house or by engaging an external agency on IT for the staff/officials of the Ministry, from time to time.