

Going Digital: Parliament and state assemblies to go paperless

By: Krishnanand Tripathi | Updated: [December 26, 2018 5:47 PM](#)

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has embarked on an ambitious project to convert the entire proceedings of Parliament and 31 state legislatures completely paperless. The entire project is designed and developed as per the rules and procedures of the respective houses.



Parliament and state assemblies have 5,379 members who together pose nearly 2 lakh questions every year regarding the functioning of the respective governments. (File photo: PTI)

Two houses of parliament and 31 state legislatures will go completely paperless which means over 5,300 members will now use digital technologies, saving tonnes of paper and plenty of time.

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has been working on an ambitious project called National E-Vidhan or NeVa to enable all the state legislatures and the two houses of Parliament to go completely paperless. Everything like submission of notice by a member for asking a

question, its acceptance, relevant correspondence with the concerned ministry, and receipt and processing of the information will become completely paperless.

“A notice is generated by a member, so the member can generate the notice online through an e-platform, same question can be sent digitally to ministries and departments for their replies, no papers need to be printed,” Parliamentary Affairs Secretary Surendra Nath Tripathi told financialexpress.com.

Parliament and state assemblies have 5,379 members who together pose nearly 2 lakh questions every year regarding the functioning of the respective governments. Also, Parliament and state assemblies together present more than 500 committee reports and deal with more than 1700 bills in a year. In addition to this, more than 10,000 papers are tabled and more than 25,000 notices are also given each year. This requires massive paper work including authentication of documents to be admitted into the respective house.

National E-Vidhan project will completely remove the need for use of paper in all the business transacted by the Parliament and state assemblies.

Members will be able to submit their questions even by using their mobile phones and the reply will also be made available to them on their phones. And it will be available to other members and general public as well at the same time it is presented to the respective house. The technology used in National E-Vidhan project is platform neutral.

It's not just that the interaction of members with the respective house will be made paperless, the entire functioning of the respective houses, from receiving questions to processing of information and receiving of replies and preparation of committee reports, each and every legislative function performed by the house will be made paperless.

“The department can upload the answers, and as per the rules of the house they can be deemed to be submitted to the house. All members can see the answers without any paper being transacted,” adds Surendra Nath Tripathi, who is driving the entire national E-Vidhan project under Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#)'s ambitious [Digital India](#) Mission.

The Digital India Mission is aimed at leveraging digital technologies in every sphere of the government functioning to increase the efficiency and cut the time and cost involved in the process.

Under the National E-Vidhan Project, the government will spend Rs. 740 crore on making each and every legislature in the country completely paperless, this will be shared jointly by the central government and state governments.

NeVa project has been implemented in Himachal Pradesh on pilot basis and 8-10 more states will adopt the system in next 6-8 months

The entire project and technology will be provided by central government's National Informatics Centre (NIC).

AI Push: Parliament, assemblies to use artificial intelligence and machine learning under E-Vidhan project

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Parliament and state assemblies will use AI and Machine Learning in a big way to handle the thousands of bills and hundreds of committee reports and over 2 lakh questions posed by over 5,300 members each year



Parliament, assemblies to use artificial intelligence and machine learning under E-Vidhan project

Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and state legislatures will use machine learning and artificial intelligence to streamline operations and discharge their legislative obligations more efficiently. Under the phase II of National E-Vidhan project, 42 legislative bodies of the country with a combined membership of over 5,300 will use 'cooked information', a term for the processed information to be used in machine learning and artificial intelligence to overhaul the handling of information.

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs have embarked on an ambitious project called NeVA (National E-Vidhan) at a cost of Rs. 740 crore to help legislative bodies to go paperless in their functioning.

"In the phase one, we are going for data processing only. In the phase two we are going to use intelligent data processing that is we will use AI and Machine Learning technologies and will make the information available in different formats and analyse, this is what we call 'cooked information,'" Parliamentary Affairs Secretary Surendra Nath Tripathi told FE Online.

This could be a game changer as these houses together have over 5,300 members and 550 different standing committees of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and state assemblies, generating more than 500 reports every year. MPs and MLAs also ask nearly 2 lakh questions each year that requires extensive paper work but this voluminous information is not easy to process and use. AI and Machine Learning can study the patterns and suggest improvements on the basis of insight drawn by the system.

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, which is the nodal ministry for its nationwide roll out, has already completed the training of staff in 11 states on the basis of insight drawn from the pilot project conducted in Himachal Pradesh. This pilot project has been extremely successful in Himachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh assembly has already amended its rules to accept questions and replies received through an e-platform. However, in the first phase which is under implementation across several states in the country, AI and Machine Learning has not been used.

"When this information will be 'cooked' properly and becomes 'digestible' for use in artificial intelligence system then we will use AI," said Mr. Tripathi, who is steering the project as the head of nodal ministry implementing the project.

National E-Vidhan System will use these cutting edge technologies like artificial intelligence and machine learning only in the second phase once the roll out for the first phase is

complete across the country. The government hopes to start using these technologies in the NeVA system within a year.

“We have not fixed a date for it but it can be within a year or earlier also,” clarified Mr. Tripathi as the technology and devise neutral platform developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) is ready to be used by all the state legislatures but it is yet to be implemented by some 20 states in the country.