

Need to upgrade digital infrastructure to supplement online learning shortfalls

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, my intervention is regarding the need to upgrade digital infrastructure to supplement online learning shortfalls presently. In the month of July, during the lockdown, the death of Adarsh Harale from the district tehsil of Sangli made headlines in the State of Maharashtra. Adarsh was a 10th standard who committed suicide when his father, a marginal farmer with meagre means, was not able to buy him a mobile phone for his online classes. Adarsh is a telling example of many such cases of deprivation and frustration of a large section of the student population all across our country. The Ministry of Education, Government of India and the State Governments are indeed taking timely steps to address this situation in the so-called New Normal. However, fact remains that our students from the vulnerable sections of the society have been very badly hit. According to the TRAI itself, in June 2020, the total rural tele-density was 59 per cent. There are only 30 internet subscribers in rural areas per 100 population. Besides the poor connectivity, intermittent electricity and non-availability of devices is making digital education inaccessible to students in the rural area. Though the Government has taken great steps for TV and radio learning, peer learning, parent teaching, community teaching, the fact remains that 27 per cent of students, according to the survey of NCERT made recently, have neither smart phones, nor laptops, nor televisions or radios. We have a student population of more than 240 million students across primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary levels. We cannot fail our young. Therefore, Sir, through you, I urge the Government to upgrade the digital infrastructure on a war footing and secondly to make, at least, a basic digital device available to every student who has no access to one.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

श्री रवि प्रकाश वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा (छत्तीसगढ़): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री राजमणि पटेल (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRIMATI ARPITA GHOSH (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

DR. AMEE YAJNIK (Gujarat): Sir, I also associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a larger issue. The next Zero Hour submission is of Shri Digvijaya Singh and Dr. Bhagwat Karad. दिग्विजय सिंह जी ने पहले नोटिस दिया है, इसलिए उन्हें दो मिनट और श्री भागवत कराड़ को एक मिनट का समय मिलेगा।

Shortage and rise in prices of oxygen cylinders

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश): सभापति महोदय, कोरोना के ट्रिटमेंट में ऑक्सीजन की अवेलेबिलिटी बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है, लेकिन पेन्डेमिक के पहले ऑक्सीजन की जो कीमत थी, वह दस रुपये क्यूबिक मीटर थी, वह अब बढ़कर पचास रुपये क्यूबिक मीटर हो गई है। National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority द्वारा जो सीलिंग फिक्स की गई थी, उसने कहा था कि to a maximum of ₹17 per cubic meter. प्राइवेट हॉस्पिटल्स में आपके आन्ध्र प्रदेश और तेलंगाना में तो और भी ज्यादा चार्ज कर रहे हैं। इसके साथ मध्य प्रदेश के देवास जिले में चार पेशेन्ट्स की मृत्यु इसलिए हो गई, क्योंकि ऑक्सीजन नहीं थी। इसी प्रकार से देवास, जबलपुर, छिंदवाड़ा और दमोह में ऑक्सीजन नहीं है और वहां पेशेन्ट्स मरने की कगार पर हैं। यूपी में जो छोटा