

(b) and (c) One of the major interventions for improving quality of education under the Samagra Shiksha includes provision for library grant in government schools, ranging from ₹ 5000/- in a primary school to ₹ 20000/- in composite senior secondary school. Revised Library Guidelines 2020 include the various measures to promote reading habits among children such as setting up reading corners, poem corners and message boards, children can be allowed to read outside the library and encouraged to take library books home to read. For visually impaired children, revised guidelines include provisions of tactile map books and Barkha Series from NCERT as well as audio books from National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and NCERT in school libraries.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued advisories and guidelines to its affiliated schools to take various measures for promoting reading habits in students such as the use of library, Reading Projects emphasizing on the purpose of reading, Donate a Book campaign and celebration of Reading Week etc.

Capacity Building is undertaken within NISHTHA - National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement which include modules for sensitizing the teachers on the importance of reading and how to manage libraries and carry out reading-based activities to develop a culture of reading amongst children and help improve the learning outcomes.

(d): To make available to the learners, community learning resources through a single-window, the Ministry of Education has set up the National Digital Library of India (NDLI) project. The objective is to collect and collate metadata and provide full text index from several national and international digital libraries, as well as other relevant sources. It is a digital repository containing textbooks, articles, videos, audio books, lectures, simulations, fiction and all other kinds of learning media. The NDLI provides free of cost access to many books in the Indian languages and English. Further, textbooks are made available for free download through its digital platforms such as E-Pathshala, E-Pub and in PDF form to facilitate the students across the country.

Impact of closing schools, colleges, universities

515. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of closing schools, colleges, universities and other educational institutions for six months on the students due to COVID-19 pandemic;

- (b) the extent to which online classes are successful;
- (c) whether it is a fact that not even 12-15 per cent students have access to online classes;
- (d) if so, what would be the impact on poor students;
- (e) whether there are any plans to announce 2020-21 as zero academic year; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'):

(a) to (d) During these difficult times, online classes emerged as a feasible solution to fulfil the necessity of teaching by teachers. These have helped in fulfilling the gap of communication as teachers and students may establish direct communication.

In order to maintain schedules of institutions, a multi-pronged approach has been adopted leveraging technology to reach the students. Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA), Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), SWAYAM PRABHA, e-textbooks etc. are used by schools, colleges and universities to provide learning facilities. Where the internet facility is not available, SWAYAM PRABHA is being used to impart education through TV. Community Radio Stations and a podcast called Shiksha Vani of CBSE is also effectively used in remote areas where online classes are difficult.

(e) and (f) No question arises to announce 2020-21 as zero academic year. Education is being imparted through various other online means such as online classes, SWAYAM, SWAYAM PRABHA, DIKSHA, e-learning materials, etc.

Kendriya Vidyalayas in Bihar

516. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Bihar which do not have their own buildings, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has made any plan to provide buildings for these KVs by identifying the sites and allocation of funds therefor; and
- (c) if so, the details and the stage of implementation thereof?