Online education and threat of its commercialization

1314. SHRI M. SHANMUGAM:
        SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) in view of the lockdown due to outbreak of COVID-19, whether Government has suggested any alternative to the school authorities to compensate the teaching hours;

(b) if digital learning is the way out, how will children in rural areas have access, since internet reach is only 60 per cent;

(c) whether Ministry is bringing out any scheme/programme to provide access at the village level for children; and

(d) in view of commercialization of online education by some private companies, whether Ministry has brought out any online education software for the school children, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) NCERT has developed an Alternative Academic Calendar for all the stages of school education. In this calendar the themes/topics have been selected from syllabus and are linked with the learning outcomes. Guidelines have been developed for conducting interesting activities based on these learning outcomes.

(b) and (c) In order to enable online education benefit to the children of every category and teachers, Learning Enhancement Guidelines have been issued. *https://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload filehs/mhrd/files/Learning_Enhancement_0.pdf*

The Learning Enhancement Guidelines has been released on 19 August, 2020 during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic. These have been prepared on the basis of the recommendations and reports of States/UTs which are as following:

- Learning enhancement during COVID-19 for students without digital devices.

- Learning enhancement during COVID-19 for students with limited access to digital devices.

- Learning enhancement during COVID-19 for students with digital devices.

(d)   Online classes are being conducted at the schools by employing various digital tools. Various efforts have been made for the creation of digital infrastructure which would not only be helpful in the current circumstances but would also be valuable asset for online learning in future in the form of DIKSHA portal (*https://diksha.gov.in/*), SWAYAM Portal (*swayam.gov.in*), SWAYAM Prabha, DD Channel, e-Pathshala (*https://epathshala.nic.in/*), NROER (National Repository of Open Educational Resources) portal (*https://nroer.gov.in/welcome*), radio, community radio and CBSE podcasts etc. The medium of TV, radio has been used for the students who do not have digital means.

The steps taken by all the states are shown in this report - India Report Digital Education June, 2020

https://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload files/mhrd/files/India_Report_Digital_Education_0.pdf

Graduation of students in various streams

1315. SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a)   the number of students who successfully graduated in the years 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20;

(b)   their percentage with respect to all eligible students in the country;

(c)   the number of rural and urban students graduated in the above period, year-wise;

(d)   number of students who graduated in medical and engineering courses in the above mentioned period, year-wise; and

(e)   ratio of male and female students who graduated in medical and engineering courses in the above period year-wise and stream-wise?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) and (b) As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), the number of students who successfully graduated (at all levels of higher education) and the percentage of successfully graduated students in the years 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 are as per the below table:—