

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2741**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**Digital divide and learning gaps due to school closure**

**2741 Shri Sujeet Kumar:**

**Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti:**

**Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa:**

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that only 24 per cent of households have access to the internet and only 61.8 per cent of households own a smartphone and 40 per cent of students had not accessed any remote learning as stated by UNICEF, if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (b) whether Government is aware that rural students were 10 per cent less likely to have accessed remote learning than their urban peers; and
- (c) the details of Government's action plan to address the glaring digital divide and learning gaps due to school closure?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**(SMT ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a) & (b) The State/UT wise data regarding the 'number of schools having internet facility by school category and management' and 'number of schools having computer available by school category and management' is available at serial No. 37 (Id 3106) and 38 (Id 3109) respectively under the sub-heading **Infrastructure** of which the UDISE++ link has been provided herewith:

<https://dashboard.udiseplus.gov.in/#/reportDashboard/sReport>

(c) To facilitate the online learning by all students a comprehensive initiative called PM eVIDYA has been initiated as part of AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan on 17th May,

2020, which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes:

- DIKSHA the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in states/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (one nation, one digital platform).
- One earmarked Swayam Prabha TV channel per class from 1 to 12 (one class, one channel).
- Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and CBSE Podcast- Shiksha Vani.
- Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/YouTube.

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