

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2762  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2021**

**Steps taken to bridge digital divide**

**2762 SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps that has been taken by Government to bridge the digital divide especially in remote rural areas and Tier 3 and Tier 4 towns;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a large section of students in the country could not participate in the online schooling curriculum due to lack of Internet facilities/digital medium like mobile phones and computers;
- (c) if so, the steps Government has taken/is taking to compensate the learning loss for such children; and
- (d) details of State-wise number of school children who could not participate in online schooling curriculum during the last two years?

**ANSWER  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)**

(a) to (c): Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. However, in order to ensure that every student including those residing in remote rural areas and Tier 3 and Tier 4 towns of the country, gets continued access to education, a multi-pronged approach has been adopted. A comprehensive initiative called PM e-VIDYA has been initiated as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes:

- DIKSHA (one nation, one digital platform) is the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in states/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades are available on it. 35 of the 36 states and UTs have on boarded on DIKSHA platform and contextualised the content as per the local need.

- One earmarked Swayam Prabha TV channel per class from Class 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.

Further, an Alternate Academic Calendar has been prepared for providing learning solutions for grade 1 to 12 and ‘Students’ Learning Enhancement Guidelines’ prepared by NCERT suggest models for the following three types of scenarios to ensure that no child is deprived of reach of education:

- a) Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students without digital devices;
- b) Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students with limited accessibility to digital devices &
- c) Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students with digital devices.

Also, PRAGYATA guidelines issued to States/UTs to facilitate continued education through various modes. The guidelines inter-alia includes situations where internet connectivity is not available or available with very less bandwidth where resources are shared through various platforms like television, radio etc that do not depend on internet.

(d) In Kendriya Vidyalayas , 98.44 % of children and in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, 92.95 % of children had access to digital devices. The digital infrastructure approved in schools under the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha, state-wise, during the last two years and current financial year is at **Annexure –I**.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO REPLY PART (d) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2762 TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2021 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA REGARDING STEPS TAKEN TO BRIDGE DIGITAL DIVIDE**

Sl. No.	State/UT	2019-20			2020-21						2021-22					
		ICT Lab			ICT Lab			Smart Classrooms			ICT Lab			Smart Classrooms		
		Elementary	Secondary	Total	Elementary	Secondary	Total	Elementary	Secondary	Total	Elementary	Secondary	Total	Elementary	Secondary	Total
1	A & N Islands	0	0	0	2	7	9	162	0	162	0	2	2	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	0	296	296	445	0	445	0	0	0	0	917	917	1096	0	1096
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	21	21	29	0	29	0	0	0	39	4	43	0	0	0
4	Assam	200	64	264	391	237	628	0	0	0	1319	540	1859	1115	2528	3643
5	Bihar	481	0	481	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2739	0	2739
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	11	78	89
7	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2624	2624	0	67	67	1705	1009	2714
8	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	78	78	0	0	0	0	895	895
9	DNH & D&D	0	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	0	28	0	28	59	25	84
10	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Gujarat	0	300	300	0	0	0	1748	67	1815	0	0	0	3806	529	4335
12	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1425	1425	167	65	232	730	424	1154
13	Himachal Pradesh	0	55	55	0	218	218	0	0	0	317	163	480	115	1517	1632
14	Jammu & Kashmir	224	173	397	0	408	408	0	0	0	0	220	220	460	58	518
15	Jharkhand	0	488	488	375	351	726	0	0	0	522	374	896	0	519	519
16	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	764	0	764	0	0	0
17	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	115	0	115
18	Ladakh	0	2	2	12	37	49	0	0	0	6	0	6	38	0	38
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	441	441	0	700	700
21	Maharashtra	708	0	708	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	663	224	887
22	Manipur	58	50	108	78	39	117	0	0	0	16	12	28	22	289	311
23	Meghalaya	0	19	19	123	9	132	0	0	0	23	2	25	0	0	0
24	Mizoram	0	0	0	40	23	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	201	201
25	Nagaland	19	0	19	0	0	0	191	282	473	0	0	0	74	0	74
26	Odisha	715	0	715	0	0	0	0	384	384	302	0	302	3946	525	4471
27	Puducherry	0	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	0	6	0	6	0	100	100
28	Punjab	0	0	0	66	6	72	0	0	0	435	0	435	0	2872	2872
29	Rajasthan	32	0	32	108	417	525	59	3231	3290	0	398	398	135	5374	5509
30	Sikkim	13	4	17	3	1	4	0	0	0	76	6	82	70	168	238
31	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	441	441	0	0	0	1784	109	1893	0	865	865
32	Telangana	0	0	0	20	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3010	3010
33	Tripura	74	0	74	59	0	59	0	0	0	49	190	239	0	249	249
34	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	5043	0	5043	0	0	0	0	543	543
35	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	233	696	929	0	240	240	709	0	709
36	West Bengal	0	0	0	125	0	125	0	0	0	1173	0	1173	0	1966	1966
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2524</b>	<b>1472</b>	<b>3996</b>	<b>1896</b>	<b>2194</b>	<b>4090</b>	<b>7436</b>	<b>8787</b>	<b>16223</b>	<b>7028</b>	<b>3750</b>	<b>10778</b>	<b>17608</b>	<b>24668</b>	<b>42276</b>

Source: PRABANDH