

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 356
ANSWERED ON 06.12.2023**

USING AI FOR EDUCATION OF BLIND CHILDREN

356 SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government has any data regarding the number of blind students enrolled in Kendriya Vidyalayas across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any step to use AI as enabler for improving education access of blind students; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a) to (d) National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, inter-alia, provides for extensive use of technology in teaching and learning, removing language barriers and increasing access for Divyang students. The Policy also recognizes the importance of creating enabling mechanisms for providing Children with Special Needs (CwSN), the same opportunities of obtaining quality education as any other child. NEP 2020 stresses upon creating holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with the key 21st century skills. NEP 2020 (Para 4.24) recognises the role and importance of curricular and pedagogical initiatives, including the introduction of contemporary subjects such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) to develop such skills in students at all levels.

There is a dedicated Inclusive Education component for the education of CwSN as an integral part of Samagra Shiksha, an integrated Scheme for School Education. Through this component, Children with Special Needs are provided support via specific student-oriented interventions such as identification and assessment camps, provision of aids, appliances and assistive devices, transportation, scribe and escort allowance support, Braille books and large print books, stipend for girls with special needs and teaching-learning materials etc. in order to appropriately address their unique educational requirements in general schools. Further, individualized support is also provided through therapeutic interventions at the block level. Samagra Shiksha supports CwSN as per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. Samagra Shiksha is being implemented through State Governments/ UT Administrations and the Central Government provides financial support to the States / UTs.

As per information received from Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, as on 30/11/2023, 87 visually impaired students have been enrolled in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) across the country. Audio textbooks developed by National Council of Educational Research and Training are being used by visually impaired students enrolled in KVs.
