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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1779
ANSWERED ON 07/08/2024
Digital Divide in Education

1779 **Shri Sandosh Kumar P:**

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the increasing digital divide in the education sector;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any initiatives to fill the gap;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the list of schools having no access to computer labs, State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a)   to (e):   NEP Para 24.4 (e) has envisaged addressing the digital divide given the fact that there still persist a substantial section of population whose digital access is highly limited, the existing mass media, such as television, radio and community radio will be extensively used for telecast and broadcast. To achieve these objectives of NEP 2020, a comprehensive initiative called PM eVidya is underway which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education.

The key components of this initiative are: -

- 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).**

- DTH TV Channels - As per the Union Budget announcement for Financial Year 2022-23, the 12 DTH Channels have been expanded to 200 PM eVidya DTH TV Channels to enable all States/UTs to provide supplementary education in various Indian languages for classes 1-12. The channels have been allocated to the States/UTs and are operational.

- 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. This is available on NIOS website/ YouTube.

To promote, crucial and critical thinking skill, a vertical on Virtual Labs has also been created on DIKSHA platform. 280 Virtual Labs for Science and Mathematics for subjects Class 6th to 12th have been made available. Training on Virtual labs has been conducted through PM eVidya DTH TV channels for teachers and teacher educators across the country.

Further, the ICT and Digital initiatives component of the centrally sponsored Samagra Shiksha scheme covers Government and Government Aided schools having classes VI to XII. This component envisages covering all such schools, subject to the availability of budgetary provision. Under this initiative, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for establishing ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms in schools, including both non-recurring and recurring grants.

The total numbers of schools which are covered under such scheme / project / initiative during the last five years are annexed.

Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools, colleges and universities are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. The State Governments have been advised to act based on the situation prevailing at every place to meet the demands of students and teachers for providing them with the digital access required for teaching learning digitally.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO PART (A) TO (E) OF THE REPLY OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1779 ANSWERED ON 07.08.2024 ASKED BY SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING DIGITAL DIVIDE IN EDUCATION

States/UTs Name	ICT Labs Approval (From 2020-21 to 2024-25)	Smart Classrooms Approval (From 2020-21 to 2024-25)
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	28	0
ANDHRA PRADESH	2687	5190
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	291	243
ASSAM	3132	6416
BIHAR	0	4846
CHANDIGARH	35	186
CHHATTISGARH	1734	10318
DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI and DAMAN AND DIU	98	190
DELHI	7	1119
GOA	3	24
GUJARAT	728	7078
HARYANA	620	3520
HIMACHAL PRADESH	995	2248
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	1512	3338
JHARKHAND	3859	1270
KARNATAKA	1123	1868
KERALA	0	509
LADAKH	119	123
LAKSHADWEEP	0	0
MADHYA PRADESH	1801	7934
MAHARASHTRA	637	3501
MANIPUR	272	544
MEGHALAYA	267	25
MIZORAM	651	238
NAGALAND	0	690
ODISHA	302	7336
PUDUCHERRY	16	145
PUNJAB	1881	3885
RAJASTHAN	2988	12627
SIKKIM	99	301
TAMIL NADU	9115	7044
TELANGANA	1086	3982
TRIPURA	773	886
UTTAR PRADESH	5565	26746
UTTARAKHAND	240	2511
WEST BENGAL	1361	0
Total	**44025**	**126881**

Source: PRABANDH

****