

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2589**

ANSWERED ON 18/12/2024

Digitalization of education in rural areas

2589 Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar:

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

- (a) the details of schemes/programs implemented for digitalization of education in rural areas, including funding and coverage;
- (b) the reasons for the disparity in implementation of digital education schemes in rural areas resulting in many areas not receiving proper facilities;
- (c) the manner in which Government plan to train teachers in rural areas to effectively use digital tools; and
- (d) the measures taken to address infrastructure challenges hindering digital education in rural areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(Shri Jayant Chaudhary)

(a) to (b) National Education Policy (NEP) (para 4.23) mentions that certain subjects, skills, and capacities should be learned by all students including digital literacy, coding, and computational thinking which are promoted through various digital initiative.

A comprehensive initiative called **PM eVidya** was initiated as part of Atma Nirbhar 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 key initiatives under PM eVidya are: -

- **DIKSHA Portal - Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) - One Nation, One Digital Platform**, is the platform for providing quality e-content for school education in States/Union Territories (UTs) and is fully funded through the National Component of the Samagra Siksha scheme and managed by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). Most of the States/UTs have made their textbooks available on DIKSHA in their regional language and have further linked them with additional learning resources (explanation videos, audios, interactive assessments, and text resources through

QR codes) mapped to various topics, which are called as Energized Digital Textbooks (ETBs).

- 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 they are using it. These initiatives help to reach the rural and remote areas where there is no connectivity or limited connectivity.
- Extensive use of Radio, Community Radio and CBSE Podcast- Shiksha Vani.

Special e-content (talking books) for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in Indian Sign Language (ISL). This is available on NIOS website/YouTube, DIKSHA, ePathshala etc.

Digital Literacy content of One Hour of is broadcasted by NCERT daily on DTH Channels to enhance the digital literacy of students in rural areas. This is also simultaneously broadcasted on channel's YouTube link.

The implementation of digital education through ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms has been provided as an annexure.

(c) Ministry of Education is also implementing a National Mission to improve learning outcomes through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme called National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA).

NISHTHA courses have been launched for Elementary, Secondary, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). NISHTHA courses are offered online by the NCERT on the DIKSHA platform using high-quality professionally made e-content. Under NISHTHA (Elementary, Secondary, FLN and ECCE) about 63 lakh teachers including those from rural areas have been trained.

(d) Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the administrative control of respective State Government and UT Administration. Government of India, through its centrally sponsored scheme Samagra Shiksha, implements the Integrated Scheme for School Education, from 2018-19. Samagra Shiksha is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. Samagra Shiksha is implemented in partnership with all the States/UTs and financial assistance is provided to all States/UTs.

Like other components of Samagra Shiksha, the funds of setting up ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms are also released to State/UTs based on the requirement communicated by them in

the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B). ICT and Digital Initiatives component of Samagra Shiksha covers Government and Aided Schools having classes VI to XII. Under this component financial assistance is provided for establishing ICT Lab and Smart Classrooms in schools. The non- recurring/recurring grant under ‘ICT and Digital Initiatives’ is available to the States/UTs for following two options:

- (i) Option I: Under this option schools which have not availed the ICT facility earlier can either opt for ICT or smart classrooms as per their requirement and need. In case of more than 700 enrolment, an additional ICT lab can also be considered. States/UTs have flexibility to procure hardware such as tablets/ laptops/notebooks/ integrated teaching learning devices and open source operating system as well as Hardware, Software, training and resource support. This would include support for digital boards, smart classrooms, virtual classrooms and DTH channels on pro-rata basis for number of schools approved.
- (ii) Option II: Under this option schools which have already availed the ICT facility earlier can avail smart classrooms/tablets as per the norms of the scheme.

Financial Provisions:

ICT Lab: a non-recurring grant of up to Rs. 6.40 lakh per school and recurring grant of upto Rs. 2.40 lakh per school per annum for a period of 5 years. From 2023-24, the scheme also offers step-wise funding based on school enrolment. (Strength < 100: Rs. 2.5 Lakhs, Strength between 100 – 250: Rs. 4.5 Lakhs, Strength between 250 – 700: Rs. 6.4 Lakhs)

Smart Classrooms: The non-recurring grant for Smart Class rooms (2 smart classrooms per school) is of Rs. 2.40 lakh and the recurring grant is Rs. 38,000/- per school per annum (including E Content and Digital Resources, Charges for Electricity).

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO PART (B) OF THE REPLY OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2589 ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024 ASKED BY SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR, HON’BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING DIGITALIZATION OF EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS

State/UT wise number of ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms (Sanctioned and Functional)

States/UTs Name	ICT (From 2005-06 to till date)		Smart Classroom (2020-21 to till date)	
	Approval	Functional	Approval	Functional
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	146	137	0	0
ANDHRA PRADESH	9,602	9,040	5,337	4,677
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	632	414	243	107
ASSAM	6,986	6,903	6,481	3,884
BIHAR	3,483	2,855	5,473	2,827
CHANDIGARH	139	107	186	185
CHHATTISGARH	3,777	2,341	10,439	5,857
DND - DNH	143	130	192	137
DELHI	1,181	1,106	1,119	1,018
GOA	463	460	24	24
GUJARAT	6,361	5,581	7,155	6,634
HARYANA	4,349	3,501	3,556	3,226
HIMACHAL PRADESH	3,332	2,555	2,262	2,248
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	3,807	3,036	3,427	1,352
JHARKHAND	5,322	4,726	1,319	982
KARNATAKA	8,777	3,293	1,963	437
KERALA	2,410	2,409	510	373
LADAKH	187	169	132	66
LAKSHADWEEP	28	11	0	0
MADHYA PRADESH	4,590	3,701	8,141	3,829
MAHARASHTRA	10,466	10,134	3,543	2,257
MANIPUR	828	785	544	508
MEGHALAYA	466	411	25	22
MIZORAM	1,035	507	240	229
NAGALAND	760	649	712	649
ODISHA	8,412	8,315	7,655	6,973
PUDUCHERRY	176	176	145	145
PUNJAB	5,807	3,969	3,885	3,567
RAJASTHAN	10,751	8,807	13,057	7,612
SIKKIM	385	372	301	274
TAMIL NADU	14,429	13,351	7,149	865
TELANGANA	6,177	4,960	4,212	3,707
TRIPURA	1441	1350	901	854
UTTAR PRADESH	10,820	3,975	27,526	18,460

UTTARAKHAND	893	621	2,522	1,537
WEST BENGAL	4,184	2788	160	0
Total	1,42,745	1,13,645	1,30,536	85,522

Source: PRABANDH
