GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1151

TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH JULY, 2021

Online classes

1151 Shri T.G. Venkatesh:

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

(a) whether due to prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation, Government has been permitting the schools and colleges to conduct online classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has noticed that many of the students are deprived of getting access to the online classes due to proper internet facility;

(d) if so, the measures being taken by Government to ensure access to online learning and teaching methods and resources to the students; and

(e) whether Government has taken views of the State Governments for evaluation to provide proper learning assistance to the students, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION

(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) and (b) Online classes are being conducted at the schools by employing various digital tools in the form of DIKSHA portal (https://diksha.gov.in/), SWAYAM Portal (swayam.gov.in), e-Pathshala (https://epathshala.nic.in/), NROER (National Repository of Open Educational Resources) portal (https://nroer.gov.in/welcome).

Learning programmes have also been started in the form of offline learning tools in the form of SWAYAM Prabha, DD Channel, radio, community radio and CBSE podcasts, toll free numbers, missed call, SMS based requests for audio content, localized radio content for edutainment etc. The medium of TV, radio has been used for the students who do not have internet access.

In order to promote online education, UGC has notified necessary regulation, which facilitates the Universities to offer full-fledged Online Program. Further, the current provisions of 20 per cent Online courses in a programme, as per provisions of UGC SWAYAM and ODL Regulations to be enhanced up to maximum 40 per cent for implementation considering “National interest during COVID-19” and also to ensure effective utilization of e-resources.

Various digital initiatives are also undertaken by Ministry of education viz. SWAYAM ("Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds"), SWAYAM Prabha, National Digital Library (NDL), Virtual Lab, e-Yantra, NEAT (National Education Alliance for technology), FOSSEE (Free Open-Source Software for Education) etc to ensure quality education to the students.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the availability of digital infrastructure PRAGYATA Guidelines on Digital Education have been issued. The guidelines brief on various modes of digital education including online mode that depends more on availability of internet, partially online mode that utilizes the blended approach of digital technology and other offline activities, and offline mode that utilizes television and radio as a major medium of instruction of education. The guidelines can be accessed at: https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/pragyata-guidelines_0.pdf

(e) Education is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, and the matter relating to education pertains to Central as well as the State Government concerned The state governments have been directed to act based on the situation prevailing at every place to meet the demands of all students for providing them with the digital access required for learning digitally. Also, depending on the states’ requirement the Ministry of Education provides Rs.6.40 Lakh for setting up computer labs and Rs.2.40 Lakh for smart classroom in the Samagra Shiksha scheme.

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