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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1645

ANSWERED ON 15/03/2023

Online Education Industry

1645 **Dr. K. Laxman:**

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

(a) whether Government has any plan under consideration to make different guidelines for online education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware of the damage, pedagogic and psychological, caused by prolonged online learning is likely to emerge over time;

(d) whether Government is aware about the exponential growth of online education industry in the country; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government for making the online education system transparent and in favour of the students?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e):   Keeping in view the availability of digital infrastructure PRAGYATA Guidelines on Digital Education have been issued on Digital/Online Education on 14th July 2020. 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. These guidelines provide a roadmap or pointers for carrying forward enhanced quality online education. The guidelines recommend screen time for different categories of students such as – Pre Primary, Classes 1 to 8 and Classes 9 to 12. The guidelines are useful for a diverse set of stakeholders including school heads, teachers, parents, teacher educators and students. It also outlines the support to be provided to students with special needs. These guidelines are also useful, to take care of the physical health and mental wellness of the students

and ensure that the children do not get over-stretched or stressed, or get affected negatively owing to prolonged use of digital devices. The guidelines can be accessed at:

https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/pragyata-guidelines_0.pdf

National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) has been conceived as a unifying National Digital infrastructure to energise and catalyse the education ecosystem. NDEAR blueprint was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 29th July 2021. The NDEAR Standards and Ecosystem policy was issued on 11th Nov 2022, these can be accessed at https://www.ndear.gov.in/

NDEAR focuses on facilitating the achievement of the goals laid down by National Education Policy 2020, through a digital infrastructure for innovations in the education ecosystem, ensuring autonomy and participation of all the relevant stakeholders, to help achieve the learning outcomes by offering solutions to learners and teachers.

The National Education Policy 2020 vide para 23.3 has envisaged an autonomous body National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) - a platform for free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration and so on, both for School and Higher Education.

In order to help the students, parents and other stakeholders to carefully evaluate the courses, tutorials, coaching by the Ed-Tech companies, Ministry of Education has formulated an advisory to citizens regarding the use of caution against Ed-tech Companies. The advisory has been released at PIB Press release which is available at the following link: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1784582

An advisory to parents and teachers has been recommended for wider circulation and educating them for necessary action ensuring effective use in overcoming all online gaming downsides with the associated mental and physical stress to children.

https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1780177

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