RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 988
ANSWERED ON 31.07.2024

Inclusion of technology in Indian education system

988   **Dr. Fauzia Khan:**

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

(a) whether initiatives have been taken to address the issue of inadequate technological infrastructure in schools in line with the New Education Policy (NEP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the appropriate steps taken to identify and address the bottlenecks;

(d) whether steps have been taken to promote the adoption of technology in pedagogy to enhance the learning experience for students;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c):   ICT and Digital Initiatives component of Samagra Shiksha covers Government and Aided Schools having classes VI to XII across the country. 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 and 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 includes 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/- (including E Content and Digital Resources, Charges for Electricity).

As on 31.03.2024, total 139181 ICT Labs and 126881 Smart classrooms are sanctioned to States/UTs.

As per the National Education Policy (NEP)- 2020, the thrust of technological interventions are to improve teaching-learning and evaluation processes, remove language barriers, support teacher preparation and professional development, enhance educational access for Divyang and to streamline educational planning, management, and administration including processes related to admissions, attendance, assessments, etc. (NEP 2020, Technology Use and Integration).

To achieve the objectives of NEP 2020, a comprehensive initiative called PM e-VIDYA is in place which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education, with a target to benefit nearly 25 crore school going children across the country. The key components of this initiative are DIKSHA - the nation's digital infrastructure, 200 PM e-VIDYA DTH TV Channels to provide supplementary education in various Indian languages for classes 1-12, ePathshala initiative to disseminate Digital Books and eContents, eJaadui Pitara is a digital app to supplement and a complement to the physical Jaadui Pitara, a vertical on Virtual Labs created on DIKSHA platform where 280 Virtual Labs for Science and Mathematics for subjects Class 6th to 12th have been made available.

The above digital initiatives of Department of School Education & Literacy especially "ICT and Smart Classroom component" provide basic infrastructure to the students and transform the classroom into tech-driven class. The students increase engagement with multimedia content and interactive activities, while availing wider range of resources. This fosters deeper understanding, collaboration, and digital literacy for students, enriching their overall educational experience.

(d) to (f): 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. The Department of School Education and Literacy has launched a National Mission to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme called NISHTHA – National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha in 2019-20. NISHTHA is a capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training".

In view of the COVID pandemic and in order to provide continuous learning opportunities to the teachers, NISHTHA online was launched using DIKSHA platform in October 2020. Teachers were oriented on various aspects related to Learning Outcomes, Competency Based Learning and Testing, Learner-centered Pedagogy, School Safety and Security, Personal-social qualities, Inclusive Education, ICT in teaching-learning including Artificial Intelligence, Health and well-being including yoga, new Initiatives in School Education including library, eco club, youth club, kitchen garden, School Leadership qualities, Environmental Concerns, Pre-school, Pre-vocational Education and School Based Assessment in a joyful learning manner.

NISHTHA training has been extended to secondary stage teachers in 2021-22. Further, NISHTHA has been extended to Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for training of master trainers.

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