

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1800
ANSWERED ON 11/12/2024

Introduction of Smart Classes in rural areas

1800 **Shri Anil Kumar Yadav Mandadi:**

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

- (a) whether Government is taking steps to introduce smart classes in the schools of rural areas in the country particularly in the State of Telangana;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has faced difficulties or identified bottle necks in introducing smart classes in the schools of rural areas in the country including the State of Telangana; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the roadmap drawn to tackle those difficulties and bottlenecks identified?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SH. JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): The Department of School Education and Literacy is implementing Samagra Shiksha – an Integrated Scheme for School Education from 2018-19. It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII, is running in the country including the rural areas and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education.

Smart classroom component of Samagra Shiksha covers Government and Aided schools having classes VI to XII. Under this component financial assistance is provided to States/UTs including rural areas for establishing Smart Classrooms in schools which includes interactive Digital Board/display unit, Operating System (OS), LCD/LED/plasma screen, printer, scanner, laptops/tablets/desktops etc.

Financial Provisions:

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.38000/- (including E Content and Digital Resources, Charges for Electricity).

Till date, 4,212 Smart Classrooms have been approved in the State of Telangana.

(c) & (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. Central Government provides funds for digital initiatives component including Smart Classrooms under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for School Education- Samagra Shiksha, on the basis of proposals received from State/UT Governments. However, the States/UTs are free to provide additional funds as per their requirement.

The key challenges or limitation faced in implementing digital interventions such as Smart Class are of Capacity Building of teachers, Infrastructure setup, Uninterrupted internet connectivity etc.

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.

The National Education Policy 2020 calls for investment in digital infrastructure, online teaching platforms and tools, virtual labs, digital repositories, online assessments, technology and pedagogy for online teaching-learning etc., for which various initiatives have been taken. For school education, digital literacy programs to students, teachers and all stakeholders have been extended with necessary funding mechanisms under Samagra Shiksha for all States/UTs, in alignment with NEP 2020.
