

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 199

ANSWERED ON 27th NOVEMBER, 2024

Digital learning in Government schools

199. Shri G.C. Chandrashekar:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is supporting Karnataka's initiatives to enhance digital learning in Government schools, especially in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details of the funds and technology provided under the National Education Policy (NEP) to Karnataka; and
- (c) whether any specialized programs are planned to boost English and technical skills in Karnataka's public school system?

ANSWER

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

(a): Education is part of Concurrent List of the Constitution and most of the Government schools are under the administration of the State Government and its bodies. Ministry of Education implements ICT and Digital initiatives under Samagra Shiksha to enhance digital learning in Government schools across the country, including rural areas in Karnataka. The initiatives aim to enhance the quality of education by integrating technology into teaching and learning processes. Under the initiatives, funds are provided for setting up ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms according to the requirement of State submitted in the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B). The ICT scheme offers two options:

1. **Option I:** Schools without prior ICT facilities can choose ICT labs or smart classrooms. Schools with over 700 students may get an additional ICT lab. States/UTs can procure hardware, software, tablets, laptops, and training resources, supporting digital boards, virtual classrooms, and DTH channels.
2. **Option II:** Schools with existing ICT facilities can access smart classrooms or tablets under the scheme norms.

Financial Provisions: ICT labs receive up to ₹6.40 lakh (non-recurring) and ₹2.40 lakh annually for five years. From 2023-24, funding varies with enrolment: ₹2.5 lakh (<100 students), ₹4.5 lakh (100-250 students), and ₹6.4 lakh (250-700 students). The non-recurring grant for smart classrooms (two smart classrooms per school) is ₹2.40 lakh, while the recurring grant is ₹38,000 per school per annum. This includes expenses for e-content, digital resources, and electricity charges.

Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA), One Nation, One Digital Platform, is the platform for providing quality e-content for school education in States/UTs including Karnataka and is fully funded through the National Component of the Samagra Siksha scheme and managed by NCERT. DIKSHA platform has a federated architecture, and 35 States/UTs, CBSE, NIOS have their own tenant on DIKSHA. Each State/UT leverages the platform in its own way, as it has the freedom and choice to use the varied capabilities and solutions of the platform to design and run programmes for teachers, learners and administrators as per the curricula needs. DIKSHA e-contents are available in 108 languages (101 Indian and 7 foreign) including Kannada. To promote, crucial and critical thinking skill, a vertical on Virtual Labs has also been created on DIKSHA platform. 280 Virtual Labs for Science and Mathematics for subjects Class 6th to 12th have been made available. Further, to promote use of child's mother tongue, home language, local language, or regional language for teaching and learning at all stages of school education and higher education, 79 primers and have been launched by the Ministry of Education including in Kodava and Tulu language of Karnataka. All these content are made available through DIKSHA web portal and mobile app. In addition, 5 PM e-Vidya DTH TV Channels have been allocated to Karnataka, to offer high quality education content in Kannada/local regional languages.

(b): The Department of School Education and Literacy is implementing an Integrated Centrally Sponsored Scheme for School Education- Samagra Shiksha since 2018- 19. The scheme has been redesigned and aligned with the recommendations of the National Education Policy, 2020. It aims to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment. As per norms of the scheme, funds are released based on the annual plans prepared by the States and UTs as per their requirements/ priority and reflected in their respective Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) Proposals which are then appraised and approved/estimated by the Project Approval Board (PAB) in the Department of School Education & Literacy.

Rs. 2,405.00 lakh was allocated for ICT Labs, and ₹150.1 lakh was earmarked for Smart Classrooms in the state during the year 2024-25.

(c): In the Annual Work Plan and Budget for 2024-25 for the state of Karnataka, funds to the tune of more than Rs. 20 Crore under the innovation head of Samagra Shiksha for Spoken English programme for more than 20 Lakh students of classes VI to X stand provided for print and supply of Student Handbooks, Teacher Handbooks and training of teachers. Further, an amount of Rs. 47.20 lakh has been approved for activities to be conducted under Exposure to Skill Education of the innovation head for internship with local artisans for hands on experience of Vocational Crafts.

In addition, as per information received from the State Govt. of Karnataka, 4129 Bi-lingual (English-Kannada) medium sections from Class 1 have been started in existing government schools across the state from the academic year 2019-20. This move is aimed at not only empowering children from disadvantaged and marginalized sections of the society by providing them access to quality English education but also meant to reduce inequities in access to quality education available to all sections of the society. In addition, Modules have been developed by Regional Institute of English South India, Bengaluru for spoken English for children in classes 1 to 8 in all government schools. Master Resource Persons (MRP) have been trained in this regard.
