

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2592

ANSWERED ON 18/12/2024

Digital literacy

2592 Shri Sanjay Seth:

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

- (a) the new schemes introduced by the Ministry in 2024 to enhance digital literacy among students, the details thereof;
- (b) the manner in which these schemes will be funded and the projected budget allocation;
- (c) specific targets that have been set for student participation in these initiatives;
- (d) the manner in which the Ministry will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these schemes; and
- (e) the details of the measures that shall be inducted there to expand these initiatives to rural areas, if so, strategies to be employed?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(Shri Jayant Chaudhary)

(a) to (e) National Education Policy (NEP) (para 4.23) mentions that certain subjects, skills, and capacities should be learned by all students including digital literacy, coding, and computational thinking which are promoted through various digital initiative.

A comprehensive initiative called **PM eVidya** was initiated as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan on 17th May, 2020, which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education.

The PM eVidya initiative is supported through budget allocated under Samagra Shiksha scheme and implemented with the support of NCERT. The components of these initiatives are available to all the students across all the States/UTs free of cost. Since education is in the concurrent list, States/UTs collaborate with NCERT to utilize, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these initiatives as per their requirements. NCERT provides regular feedback on quality of these initiatives.

The key components of PM eVidya are also aligned towards enhancing digital literacy and includes:

- DTH TV Channels: These channels were launched on 9th March 2024 by Hon'ble Education Minister.

NEP Para 24.4 (e) has envisaged addressing the digital divide given the fact that there still persist a substantial section of population whose digital access is highly limited, the existing mass media, such as television, radio and community radio will be extensively used for telecast and broadcast.

As per the Union Budget announcement for Financial Year 2022-23, the 12 DTH Channels have been expanded to 200 PM eVidya DTH TV Channels to enable all States/UTs to provide supplementary education in various Indian languages including for classes 1-12. The channels have been allocated to the States/UTs and Autonomous Bodies under an MoU with CIET-NCERT and are operational.

Also On 6th December 2024, in consonance with the NEP 2020 recommendation for promotion of Indian Sign Language and to ensure extensive reach of the teaching learning material in ISL to a wider audience, Hon'ble Minister of Education launched a dedicated initiative promoting inclusive education through accessible learning resources for the hearing-impaired community through a dedicated PM eVidya DTH Channel (Channel no. 31). Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/ YouTube.

One Hour of content on Digital Literacy is broadcasted by NCERT daily on DTH Channels and YouTube to enhance the digital literacy of students in rural areas.

- DIKSHA the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in States/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (**One Nation, One Digital platform**).

NCERT has been offering NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) courses through the DIKSHA platform with one of the objectives to empower the teacher and school heads with the digital skills that can be further used to enhance digital literacy of students. NISHTHA (Elementary, Secondary, FLN and ECCE) covers various courses in Indian languages. Under this, ICT in teaching-learning including Artificial Intelligence is one of the courses covered. It is to be mentioned that all the NISHTHA integrated Teacher Training Programmes have dedicated course modules on use and integration of technology in school education – teaching learning and assessment. More than 63 Lakhs+ teachers have completed NISHTHA Trainings.

Further, the courses on Computer Sciences on DIKSHA platform for Class XIth and Class XIIth include Digital Literacy components.

To promote crucial critical thinking skill and to give space for creativity, a vertical on Virtual Labs has been created on DIKSHA platform. Training on Virtual labs has been conducted through PM eVidya DTH TV channels for teachers and teacher educators across the country.
