

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION FAQ NO- 445**  
ANSWERED ON- 28/11/2024

**FREE TELE-EDUCATION AND TELEMEDICINE SERVICES TO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES**

#445. SHRI NARHARI AMIN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government is running any programme to provide free tele-education and telemedicine services to friendly countries;
- (b) if so, the names of the friendly countries where such services are being provided; and
- (c) the amount spent by Government on such services in the last five years?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) Yes, the Indian Government is implementing tele-education and tele-medicine project, known as e-Vidya Bharati and E-Arogya Bharati (e-VBAB), which was launched on 7 October 2019, as part of the commitment made by Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi during the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) in 2015. It is also offering 50,000 scholarships to African students, out of which 15,000 are through Online mode using internet/web based technology.

(b) 22 African Countries:

Benin,  
Guinea,  
Zambia,  
Malawi,  
Ghana,  
Democratic Republic of Congo,  
Côte d'Ivoire,  
Sudan,  
Uganda,  
Mozambique,  
Mauritius,  
Comoros,  
Sierra Leone,  
Mali,  
Eritrea,

The Gambia,  
Seychelles,  
Somalia,  
Nigeria,  
Djibouti,  
Madagascar,  
South Sudan

(c) Rs. 105.9 crore has been spent (till date) on the e-VBAB Network Project, since its inception in 2020.

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