

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 345
ANSWERED ON 02/04/2025**

Integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Schools

345 # Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil:

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

- (a) the major challenges being faced in the effective implementation of ICT in rural schools of Maharashtra, particularly in the Raigad and Konkan regions;
- (b) the steps taken so far by Government to ensure internet connectivity and uninterrupted power supply for the proper utilization of ICT in these schools; and
- (c) the schemes currently being run to promote digital education in rural schools along with the number of schools and students benefiting from these schemes?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

- (a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 345 FOR 02.04.2025 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SHRI DHAIRYASHIL MOHAN PATIL REGARDING INTEGRATION OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) IN SCHOOLS.

(a) to (c): 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 is implementing Samagra Shiksha – an Integrated Scheme for School Education from 2018-19. Samagra Shiksha is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education including the rural areas. Samagra Shiksha is implemented in partnership with all the States and UTs and financial assistance is provided to all States and UTs.

ICT and Digital Initiatives component of Samagra Shiksha covers Government and Aided Schools having classes VI to XII. Under this component financial assistance is provided for establishing ICT Lab and Smart Classrooms in schools.

Department of School Education and Literacy, Government of India has communicated to all the States and UTs to enter into an MoU/ Agreement with BSNL and provide FTTH Internet connection to all the Government Schools which have computing devices. States/ UTs have been advised that the Internet Charges can be met from the following:

- For ICT Labs / Smart Class rooms sanctioned under Samagra Shiksha, internet charges can be met from the recurring charges being released under Samagra Shiksha.
- For Schools in which ICT / Smart Class room are not sanctioned under Samagra Shiksha and which have computing devices, internet Charges can be met from the Management monitoring Evaluation and Research (MMER) funds being released under Samagra Shiksha or can be met from any other State/UT Government funds.

Under recurring component of ICT Labs, Rs.2000/- per month are provided for Charges for Electricity/ Diesel/ Kerosene/Solar Power to ensure Sustainability.

Recently in Budget 2025-26, it has been announced that the Broadband connectivity will be provided to all Government secondary schools in rural areas under the BharatNet project.

The key challenges or limitation faced in implementing digital interventions 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.

The State Government of Maharashtra has informed that the state has proposed installing solar panels in schools and, as part of the ICT process, is providing internet facilities. Further, the State Government of Maharashtra has informed that the following are the beneficiaries in the Raigad and Konkan regions: -

Districts	No. of student benefiting of ICT	ICT available	Smart TV	Computers Available	Internet facility available
Raigad	58203	159	428	577	342
Sindhudurg	19885	94	382	358	107
Ratnagiri	43555	199	585	836	316
Thane	66759	154	475	633	614
Palghar	135677	142	376	468	206
Mumbai (sub urban)	294539	224	628	951	831
Satara	66759	270	656	801	469

To achieve the objectives of NEP 2020 and to bridge the digital divide in education, 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 Virtual Labs for Science and Mathematics for subjects Class 6th to 12th have been made available.
