

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 3554

ANSWERED ON 02/04/2025

Computer literacy in the State of Bihar

3554 Shri Sanjay Yadav:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that under National Education Policy, 2020, literacy and computer literacy are essential components to achieve the goal;
- (b) whether it is a fact that as per SDG INDIA INDEX 2023-24, Bihar ranked last among States and UTs in terms of literate population above 15 years of age and schools with computers;
- (c) whether it is a fact that for better quality jobs in the organized sector, literacy (including computer literacy) are essential and minimum qualifications; and
- (d) the actions taken by Government to improve the situation, including actions specially targetting the laggard States like Bihar, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 lays utmost emphasis on education including foundational literacy, numeracy, and digital literacy for achieving the overall goal of quality education for all. NEP is the first education policy of the 21st century and envisions transformation of the education sector into a more holistic, flexible and multidisciplinary one, suited to 21st century needs.

(b): The SDG India Index aims to monitor the progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) covering 16 goals and various indicators in India. The NITI Aayog with a view to accelerate progress on the SDGs has prepared SDG India Index and dashboard comprehensively documenting and ranking the progress made by States and Union Territories. The link to Index and dashboard can be accessed at following link: <https://sdgindiaindex.niti.gov.in/#/ranking>

(c) & (d): The Central Government is committed to addressing educational challenges across all States/UTs of India including Bihar ensuring that no region is left behind in achieving the goals of **NEP 2020**.

The Government has undertaken various initiatives to promote literacy including computer literacy in all States/UTs including Bihar as follows:

- **Samagra Shiksha Interventions:** Education is under Concurrent List of the Constitution of India and majority of schools comes under the administrative domain of the State/UT Governments. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for implementation of various interventions including ICT-enabled learning and digital classrooms as per the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) prepared by the States and UTs based on their requirements and priority. These plans are then appraised/approved by Project Approval Board (PAB) in consultation with the States and UTs as per the programmatic and financial norms of the scheme. Under the Scheme, funds for 627 ICT Labs with a financial outlay of Rs. 4108.00 lakh have been approved since 2022-23 for the State of Bihar. Similarly, funds for 2734 Smart Classrooms with a financial outlay of Rs. 6055.90 lakh have been approved since 2022-23 for the State of Bihar.
- **NIPUN Bharat Mission:** NIPUN Bharat Mission (NBM) is being implemented for ensuring that every child in the country attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 2. Jadui Pitara -a play-based learning-teaching material tailored for children between the age group of 3-8 years aims to make learning more joyful and effective. Digital version of Jadui Pitara, known as 'e-Jaadui Pitara' has also been launched across various platforms including a vertical on DIKSHA and a dedicated mobile application for teachers, parents and caregivers at foundational stage.
- **PM eVidya & DIKSHA Platform:** A comprehensive initiative called PM eVidya has been implemented to provide access to digital education to students across the country. It unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education, thereby providing access to multi-mode education. DIKSHA (One Nation - One Digital Platform) serves as a centralized digital repository, offering a wide range of educational e-content aligned with the curriculum. The program leverages 200 DTH TV Channels, dedicated to grade-specific learning, making educational content widely accessible via satellite TV.
- **National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR):** NDEAR is an architectural blueprint for the educational ecosystem in the country that defines a set of principles, standards and specifications, guidelines and policies to strengthen the digital infrastructure for education.
- **Skill and Vocational Education:** NEP 2020's emphasis on vocational education aims to equip students with essential skills, including digital literacy, to enhance employability. To further strengthen this, exposure to vocational education from Grade 6 has been introduced under NEP 2020. Special emphasis is being placed on IT-based skilling programs to meet the demands of the evolving job market.

Further, as per information received from State Government of Bihar, following initiatives have been undertaken, among others –

- Laptops are being distributed to meritorious students of the Bihar School Examination Board to enhance their digital literacy and familiarity with computers.
- Under the Bihar Student Credit Card Scheme, provision has been made for students to avail loans for purchasing laptops, thereby encouraging access to personal digital learning tools.
- E-libraries in schools are promoting digital education and providing students with access to a wide range of online learning resources.
