

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 41  
ANSWERED ON 23/07/2025**

**Digital education in Government schools**

**41 # Shri Madan Rathore:**

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

- (a) whether all Government schools have been provided with internet and smart devices for digital education;
- (b) whether Government has made any digital education plan especially for rural areas;
- (c) whether all States are being given equal resources under the 'One Nation One Digital Platform' scheme; and
- (d) whether the teachers are being imparted regular training on the use of digital tools?

**ANSWER**

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

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 41 FOR 23.07.2025 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SHRI MADAN RATHORE REGARDING DIGITAL EDUCATION IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.**

(a) to (d): Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under domain of the respective State and UT Governments. Samagra Shiksha, an overarching programme envisaging the 'school' as a continuum from pre-school to Grade 12, is running in the country including the rural areas. The vision of the scheme is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education in accordance with the National Education Policy 2020.

Under Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to States/UTs, including rural areas, inter-alia for setting up of ICT labs and smart classrooms in Government and Government Aided Schools having classes VI to XII. The non- recurring/recurring grant under 'ICT and Digital Initiatives' is available to the States and UTs for following two options:

**Option I:** Under this option schools which have not availed the ICT facility earlier can either opt for ICT or smart classrooms as per their requirement and need. In case of more than 700 enrolment, an additional ICT lab can also be considered. States/UTs have flexibility to procure hardware such as tablets/ laptops/notebooks/ integrated teaching learning devices and open-source operating system as well as Hardware, Software, training and resource support. This would include support for digital boards, smart classrooms, virtual classrooms and DTH channels on pro-rata basis for number of schools approved.

**Option II:** Under this option schools which have already availed the ICT facility earlier can avail smart classrooms/tablets as per the norms of the scheme.

**Financial Provisions:**

**ICT Lab:** a non-recurring grant of up to Rs. 6.40 lakh per school and recurring grant of upto Rs. 2.40 lakh per school per annum for a period of 5 years.

From 2023-24, the scheme also offers step-wise funding based on school enrolment. (Strength < 100: Rs. 2.5 Lakhs, Strength between 100 – 250: Rs. 4.5 Lakhs, Strength between 250 – 700: Rs. 6.4 Lakhs)

**Smart Classrooms:** The non-recurring grant for Smart Class rooms (2 smart classrooms per school) is of Rs. 2.40 lakh and the recurring grant is Rs. 38,000/- per school per annum (including E Content and Digital Resources, Charges for Electricity).

In order to saturate all functional KGBV with ICT Labs and smart classrooms, as per Samagra Shiksha norms, Rs. 28841.96 lakh have been allocated for establishing 3564 ICT labs and 3655 smart classrooms across 29 States/UTs in FY 2024-25.

Additionally, to saturate all functional secondary and senior secondary schools with ICT Labs, Smart Classrooms, and subject specific laboratories, an amount of Rs. 5989.90 crore has been approved under Samagra Shiksha.

An advisory was issued by the Department of School Education and Literacy to all the States & 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 recurring charges being released for ICT Labs/Smart Classrooms under Samagra Shiksha or from Management, Monitoring, Evaluation and Research (MMER) funds being released under Samagra Shiksha or can be met from any other State/UT Government funds.

Additionally, the Government of India, as part of the Budget 2025, has announced provision of broadband connectivity to all Government secondary schools in rural areas under BharatNet project to enhance digital infrastructure in remote areas.

To ensure digital education across rural areas, a comprehensive initiative called **PM e-Vidya** was initiated as part of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education across the country. The PM e-Vidya initiative is supported through a budget allocated under the 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. States/UTs collaborate with NCERT to utilise, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these initiatives as per their requirements. NCERT also provides regular guidance/ feedback to States/UTs on the quality of these initiatives. The key components of PM e-Vidya are also aligned towards enhancing digital literacy and include:

**DIKSHA- One Nation, One Digital platform:** Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) the Nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in States/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks (ETBs) for all grades. Overall, 564.05 crore learning sessions have been completed on DIKSHA by students, teachers and other stakeholders. Further, the courses on Computer Sciences on the DIKSHA platform for Class XI and Class XII include Digital Literacy components. Keeping in view, the recommendations of the NEP 2020, 117 Indian Language Primers have been released with a focus on enabling young learners and adults to access education in their mother tongue. To promote crucial critical thinking skills and to give space for creativity, more than 300 Virtual Labs have been created and made available on the DIKSHA platform.

**200 DTH TV Channels:** These channels were launched on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2024. As per the Union Budget announcement for Financial Year 2022-23, the 12 DTH Channels have been expanded to 200 PM e-Vidya 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 MoE and other ministries and are operational. Further on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, in consonance with the NEP 2020 recommendation for promotion of Indian Sign Language (ISL) and to ensure extensive reach of the learning-teaching material in ISL to a wider audience, a dedicated initiative promoting inclusive education through accessible learning resources for the hearing-impaired community through a dedicated PM e-Vidya DTH Channel (Ch. No. 31) has been launched. One hour of content on Digital Literacy is broadcasted by NCERT daily on DTH Channels and YouTube to enhance the digital literacy of students and teachers in rural areas.

The above digital initiatives of Department of School Education & Literacy especially "ICT and Smart Classroom component" provide basic infrastructure to the students and transform the classroom into tech-driven class. The students increase engagement with multimedia content and interactive activities, while availing wider range of resources. This fosters deeper understanding, collaboration, and digital literacy for students, enriching their overall educational experience.

The Department of School Education and Literacy has also launched a National Initiative to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme called **NISHTHA – National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement** under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha. NISHTHA is a capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training". NISHTHA online was launched using DIKSHA platform in October, 2020. NISHTHA training has been extended to secondary stage teachers in 2021-22. Subsequently, NISHTHA also extended to Foundational Literacy and Numeracy and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for training of master trainers.

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