

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1965
ANSWERED ON 06/08/2025

Shortcomings in NEP

1965 # **Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the shortcomings in National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 in terms of teacher training, infrastructure and digital gap in rural and tribal regions;
- (b) steps being taken for effective utilization of Samagra Shiksha fund, given that only 64 percent of the budget was spent in 2018-19 and 22 percent in first seven months of 2019-20;
- (c) whether any plan has been formulated for school closures in disaster-prone regions such as Konkan, Maharashtra; and
- (d) measures to bridge the digital divide when 57.2 percent of schools have computers and 53.9 percent have internet access as per UDISE+ 2023-24 data?

ANSWER

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

(a): The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has introduced transformative reforms aimed at improving the quality of education at all levels. Recognizing the need for foundational literacy and numeracy, equitable learning opportunities, and modern pedagogy, the policy has restructured the education system to make it more inclusive, competency-based, and outcome-oriented.

With a focus on infrastructure development, teacher training, digital learning, and equitable access to education, NEP 2020 is playing a crucial role in improving learning outcomes and strengthening the country's education system, making it more effective and inclusive.

NEP 2020 provides different timelines as well as principles and methodology for its implementation. It also envisions operationalization of the entire policy in the decade of 2030-40, following which another comprehensive review will be undertaken.

Further, since 2018-19, the Department of School Education and Literacy is implementing an integrated centrally sponsored scheme for School education- Samagra Shiksha. The scheme treats school education holistically, without segmentation from pre-primary to class XII.

The Scheme has now been aligned with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and aims to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which should take care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.

(b): The funds, under the scheme of Samagra Shiksha, are now released based on the fulfilment of guidelines prescribed by Ministry of Finance, such as transfer of central share to SNA, pace of expenditure, receipt of commensurate State share in SNA, statement on outstanding advances, up-to date expenditure statement, furnishing of information as prescribed in the Manual on Financial Management & Procurement and audited utilization certificate of previous year.

The releases under Samagra Shiksha in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2024-25 are as under:

| Year | % Release of RE |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 2018-19 | 95 % |
| 2019-20 | 90 % |
| 2024-25 | 95 % |

(c): Education being a subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution, opening, closing and merger of schools comes under the administrative domain of the respective State/UT Government. However, Samagra Shiksha Scheme provides flexibility to the States to prioritize interventions in disaster-prone areas. The Ministry of Education has also issued advisories from time to time emphasizing preparedness and prompt restoration in disaster-affected areas. Further, the Department of School Education & Literacy in coordination with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued guidelines to promote disaster resilience in school infrastructure and are available on the website of DoSEL at https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/2021-10/guidelines_sss.pdf.

(d): 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. To saturate all secondary and higher secondary schools with ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms, during FY 2025-26, 20,456 ICT Labs and 29,896 Smart Classrooms have been approved in addition to earlier approval of 1,56,213 ICT Labs and 1,46,040 Smart Classrooms. A comprehensive initiative PM eVidya unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multimode access to education across the country. 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. 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 quality of these initiatives.

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 and 400 Radio channels to enable all States/UTs to provide supplementary education in various Indian languages for classes 1-12. These channels were launched on 09.03.2024 and have been allocated to the States/UTs and Autonomous Bodies under an MoU with NCERT and are operational.
