

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1947

ANSWERED ON 17/12/2025

Digital learning grid

1947 Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) what metrics will the Ministry use to assess whether the proposed “Digital Learning Grid” actually narrows the urban-rural learning gap, beyond mere enrolment numbers (Digital equity metrics);
- (b) how does the Ministry plan to address the projected shortage of 1.2 million teachers by 2027, especially in STEM subjects, without compromising the pupil-teacher ratio mandated by NEP (Teacher supply vs. quality); and
- (c) how the Ministry is going to ensure that the integration of vocational skills does not dilute academic rigour for students in disadvantaged districts in the context of the new curriculum framework, (Vocational-academic balance)?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Education is part of the Concurrent List of the Constitution and most of the Government schools and School Boards are under the administration of the State Government and its bodies. Ministry of Education (MoE) announced the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) on 29.07.2020 as the first education policy of the 21st century that aims to address the many growing developmental imperatives of our country. NEP 2020 mandates that there should be no hard separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams etc. to eliminate harmful hierarchies among and silos between different areas of learning. This Ministry implements ICT and Digital initiatives under Samagra Shiksha, aligned with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, to enhance digital learning in Government schools across the country. These initiatives aim to enhance the quality of education by integrating technology into learning and teaching processes.

A comprehensive initiative called PM eVidya was initiated as part of ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan’ on 17th May, 2020, which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education across the country under the aegis of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. States/Union Territories (UTs) collaborate with NCERT to utilise, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these initiatives as per their requirements in mother tongue/local/regional languages. PM eVidya includes 200 DTH TV Channels allotted to States/UTs/Autonomous Bodies (ABs)/Other Ministries in Government of India and 400 Radio channels to enable them to provide supplementary education as per their requirement in various Indian languages for classes 1-12. Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) is the Nation’s One Nation, One Digital platform for providing quality e-content for school education in States/UTs along with QR coded Energised Textbooks (ETBs) for all grades. As a participant in

DIKSHA, States/UTs/ABs have generated and contributed over 3.7 lakh content in mother local/regional languages enabling multilingualism. Overall, 565.28 crore learning sessions have been completed on DIKSHA by students, teachers and other stakeholders. DIKSHA Offline supports areas with limited or no internet connectivity. The stakeholders have access to more than 450 Virtual Labs and 100 Virtual skill labs (50 each in Hindi and English) on DIKSHA.

The recruitment, service conditions and rational deployment of teachers, including STEM teachers, fall within the administrative purview of the concerned States/UTs. Recruitment of teachers is a continuous process and vacancies arise on account of various factors such as retirement, resignation and increased requirement of teachers due to growth in student enrolment.

In order to ensure merit/quality among teachers, the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) vide Gazette notification dated 23rd August, 2010, as amended from time to time, has laid down minimum qualifications for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher.

The Government periodically advises States/UTs to fill vacant posts of teachers, to ensure timely recruitment of teachers by adopting a transparent and merit-based process through autonomous teacher recruitment boards or similar organisations. The progress regarding filling up of teacher vacancies through a competitive selection examination conducted by States/UTs, with due care for consistency and sanctity and after a technology based comprehensive teacher requirement planning and forecasting exercise, is periodically reviewed through regular meetings with States/UTs as well as through advisories.

The Central Government, through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, provides financial assistance to States/UTs to maintain appropriate Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) at various levels of schooling, as per the norms prescribed under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, as amended from time to time.

National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 emphasizes maintenance of a pupil-teacher ratio of under 30:1 in each school and under 25:1 for areas having large numbers of socio-economically disadvantaged students. The overall PTR at the national level has improved from 27:1 as per the UDISE+ 2022-23 report. As per UDISE+ 2024-25, the stage-wise PTR has been reported as 10 at the Foundational stage, 13 at the Preparatory stage, 17 at the Middle stage and 21 at the Secondary stage.

Under the Vocational Education component of the Samagra Shiksha scheme, NSQF-aligned vocational courses are presently offered to students of Classes IX to XII in approved schools. At the secondary level (Classes IX–X), vocational modules are offered as an additional subject, while at the senior secondary level (Classes XI–XII) vocational courses are offered as a compulsory elective subject. A total of 138 job roles have so far been approved for introduction as skill subjects for Classes IX to XII. Employability Skills modules – including Communication Skills, Self-Management Skills, Information and Communication Technology Skills, Entrepreneurship Skills and Green Skills – form a mandatory part of each skill subject under Samagra Shiksha. In order to realise the objectives of NEP 2020, the Samagra Shiksha scheme has been revamped and several new interventions relating to vocational education have been incorporated so that the expansion of vocational education strengthens the overall academic rigour of schooling, including in disadvantaged districts.
