GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. – 200
ANSWERED ON 11/03/2026

Expansion of digital and artificial intelligence-based education in Bihar

200 # **Shri Sanjay Yadav**:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that while 35 per cent of Government schools in the country have smart class facilities, in Bihar only 19.6 per cent of Government schools with class 6 and above have smart class facilities, which is significantly lower than national average;

(b) whether it is a fact that in Bihar, only 6.8 percent of schools have ICT labs and only about 16 per cent of schools have internet access, if so, reasons therefor and whether Government has studied and analyzed this situation; and

(c) steps being taken by Government for rapid expansion of digital and artificial intelligence based education in Bihar?

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. 200 ANSWERED ON 11.03.2026 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI SANJAY YADAV REGARDING "EXPANSION OF DIGITAL AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE-BASED EDUCATION IN BIHAR"

(a) to (c):   Data regarding availability of ICT Labs, Smart Classrooms and Internet connectivity in the State of Bihar and at the national level is as under: –

	Total number of Government schools (Grade VI and above)	Number of schools with		
		ICT Labs	Smart Classrooms	Internet Connectivity
Bihar	38,355	7240 (18.9%)	9360 (24.4%)	32923 (85.8%)
National	3,94,924	133334 (33.8%)	183294 (46.4%)	260412 (65.9%)

Source: UDISE+ 2024-25 (Unified District Information System for Education Plus)

The subject 'Education' is in List-III (Concurrent List) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and majority of the schools are under the administrative control of the respective State Government / UT Administration. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to States/UTs, including State of Bihar, for improving the school infrastructure including setting up of 'ICT Labs' and 'Smart Classrooms'. Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) is prepared by the States/UTs based on their requirements, priorities and availability of funds. AWP&B is then appraised / approved by the Project Approval Board, as per the programmatic and financial norms of the scheme, in consultation with the respective State/UT.

Under Samagra Shiksha Scheme, 'ICT and Digital Initiatives' component covers Government and Government Aided Schools having classes VI to XII. Under this component financial assistance is provided for establishing ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms in schools as per following norms:

ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms-Programmatic Norms:

The non-recurring/recurring grant under 'ICT and Digital Initiatives' is available to the States for following two options: -

(i). Option I: Under this option schools which have not availed the ICT facility earlier

can either opt for ICT labs 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.

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

ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms-Financial norms:

ICT Labs: 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).

Taking into consideration the gaps in availability of ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms in Secondary Schools of Bihar, 1459 ICT Labs and 6113 Smart Classrooms have been approved for the State of Bihar during the current financial year 2025–26. Further, to saturate all functional Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs), 627 ICT Labs and 627 Smart Classrooms have been approved in 2024-25 for the State of Bihar.

A comprehensive initiative called PM eVidya was initiated as part of Atma Nirbhar 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. 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 eVidya are also aligned towards enhancing digital literacy and include 200 DTH TV channels. As per the Union Budget announcement for Financial Year 2022-23, 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. The State of Bihar has been allotted five channels (BR PM eVIDYA 63 to BR PM eVIDYA 67) under the 'PM eVidya' initiative of the Ministry of Education.

Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) is the Nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in States/UTs and QR coded Energised Textbooks (ETBs) for all grades (One Nation, One Digital platform). DIKSHA Offline supports areas with limited or no internet connectivity. To promote crucial critical thinking skills and to give space for creativity, more than 614 Virtual Labs have been created and made available on the DIKSHA platform. AI enabled features on DIKSHA like Ask DIKSHA (Chat with Books) Video Keyword Search, Read Aloud, AI-based Translation are available nationwide including the State of Bihar. The total number of course enrolments stands at 18.52 crore, with 14.71 crore completions to date. Bihar is one of the tenants on DIKSHA. Bihar has 15,083 daily active average users for the last 3 months, 12.23 lakh registered users, 50.02 crore learning sessions, 621.73 crore learning minutes, 268 Digital Textbooks, and 7,121 e-contents.

e-Jaadui Pitara designed for teachers and parents of children aged 3-8 offers engaging learning resources and AI-powered assistance to parents and teachers through three chat bots Katha Sakhi, Teacher Tara and Parent Tara.

To provide broadband connectivity through FTTH (Fibre to the home) to rural Government secondary schools, all States/UTs have been advised to enter into MoU/Agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL). In the 1st phase, 1694 schools from Bihar have been included.

****