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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1310
ANSWERED ON 11/02/2026

Digital infrastructure gaps affecting implementation of NEP, 2020

1310 **Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha:**

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

(a) whether Government has examined gaps in digital infrastructure, including poor internet connectivity and lack of access to digital devices in rural, tribal, and economically weaker areas, affecting digital learning under NEP, 2020;
(b) the extent of these gaps in schools and among students at home, particularly in underserved regions;
(c) whether any specific measures or dedicated funds have been provided to bridge these digital infrastructure gaps in the four years since NEP, 2020 was launched; and
(d) the initiatives planned or undertaken to improve connectivity, provide digital devices and enhance access to online learning resources for students in rural, tribal and economically weaker areas?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments.

Under Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to States/UTs, including rural, tribal and economically backward 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.

Till date 1,79,153 ICT Labs and 1,76,738 Smart Classrooms have been sanctioned to State/UT Governments. Based on the UDISE+ data and funds approved in Project Approval Board's (PAB) meetings to States/UTs for the year 2025-26, gaps were identified in saturating ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms in Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools in States/UTs. To address this gap, 22,618 ICT Labs and 29,920 Smart Classrooms in States/UTs were approved for the saturation of these facilities in the year 2025-26. Further, to saturate all functional Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) 3,564 ICT Labs and 3,655 Smart Classrooms were approved in the year 2024-25.

The year wise details of funds allocated in the last four years (i.e. from 2021-22 to 2024-25) for ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms in Government and Government-aided schools is as under: -

(Rs. in lakh)

Financial year	**ICT Labs**	**Smart Classrooms**
2021-22	68456.0	91092.7
2022-23	41824.0	73823.2
2023-24	55904.4	53729.7
2024-25	54371.6	59518.8

The Government of India, in the Budget 2025-26, has announced provision of broadband connectivity to all Government Secondary Schools in rural areas, under the 'BharatNet' project to enhance digital infrastructure in remote areas by BSNL.

To achieve the objectives of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and to bridge the digital divide in education, 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 NEP 2020. States/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 including Government schools in States/UTs along with QR coded Energised Textbooks (ETBs) for all grades. States/UTs/ABs have generated and contributed over 3.7 lakh content in mother local/regional languages enabling multilingualism. 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 on DIKSHA.

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