

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3698  
ANSWERED ON 25/03/2026**

**STEM and technical education in rural Raigarh**

3698 # **Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the lack of advanced STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) laboratories in secondary schools in the rural talukas of Mahad and Poladpur;
- (b) if so, the details of funds allocated under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan for upgrading laboratories in rural schools in Raigarh district during the last three years; and
- (c) the steps taken to bridge the digital divide for students in the seismic mountainous areas of the Western Ghats in the Konkan region?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (b): Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of schools are within the purview of respective State Government and UT Administration. The Department of School Education and Literacy is implementing Samagra Shiksha, covering the entire gamut from pre-school to class XII and is aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which takes care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.

Samagra Shiksha Scheme supports creation of infrastructure including establishment of labs in Government Schools. The requirement of infrastructural facilities in schools are worked out every year by the respective State/Union Territory including rural areas depending on their need and priority and reflected in their Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B). These plans are then appraised and approved by Project Approval Board (PAB) in consultation with the States and Union Territories as per the programmatic and financial norms of the scheme, physical and financial progress of works sanctioned

earlier and availability of budgetary resources. As reported on UDISE +, 89% Higher secondary Government schools have Science labs in State of Maharashtra. Raigad District is fully saturated in terms of science labs availability at Higher secondary level.

The state has informed that under the STARS program in 2022–23, STEM labs were established in 43 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs). There are no science stream Government Schools in Mahad and Poladpur Talukas.

(c): The Ministry of Education implements ICT and Digital initiatives under Samagra Shiksha to enhance digital learning in Government schools across the country, including Konkan region of Maharashtra. The initiatives aim to enhance the quality of education by integrating technology into teaching and learning processes

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.

The key components of PM eVidya are aligned towards enhancing digital literacy and include 200 DTH TV channels. These 200 PM eVidya DTH TV channels and 400 Radio channels enable all States/UTs to provide supplementary education in various Indian languages for classes 1-12.

The State of Maharashtra has been allotted five channels (MH PM eVIDYA 113 to MH PM eVIDYA 117) 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).

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. Additionally, the Government of India, in the Budget 2025, has announced provision of broadband connectivity to all Government Secondary schools in rural areas, including 303 schools from Maharashtra in phase 1, under the 'BharatNet' project to enhance digital infrastructure in remote areas by BSNL in a phased manner.

State has informed that under the Samagra Shiksha and PM SHRI, 404 ICT labs, 576 smart classrooms and 206 digital libraries were established for upper primary and secondary government schools in Konkan region.

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