

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-373
ANSWERED ON-22/07/2026**

Implementation of National Education Policy, 2020

373 # Shri Sanjay Kumar Jha:

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

- (a) whether Government has evaluated the progress of implementation of National Education Policy, 2020, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there has been an increase in educational access through digital education and online learning platforms, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether quality education is being ensured in rural and backward areas through National Education Policy?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)**

(a) to (c): The Government of India has framed and approved the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to transform the education landscape into a multidisciplinary, inclusive, and learner-centric ecosystem. It accords high priority to enhancing access, equity, and quality of education for everyone. It promotes provision of physical infrastructure, digital tools & connectivity, and improving inclusion & equity as critical enablers for expanding access to education, particularly in rural regions. The details of various initiatives aimed at these key enablers are as follows:

NEP 2020 accords priority to strengthen the physical infrastructure, particularly in rural and remote areas, through the construction of new buildings, addition of classrooms, upgrading of facilities, provision of barrier-free access for children with special needs, and improved sanitation and hygiene. Initiatives such as Samagra Shiksha, PM-SHRI, and PM-USA scheme are contributing to building safe and inclusive infrastructure and learning environments, thereby enhancing access, enrolment, retention, and overall educational outcomes. The details of the initiatives are as follows:

- **Samagra Shiksha:** Samagra Shiksha is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which aims to ensure that all children, from pre-school to class 12, have access to quality education. Under the scheme financial assistance is provided to the States and UTs for opening/strengthening of schools till senior secondary level, construction of school buildings & additional classrooms, development/strengthening of school infrastructure in northern border areas under Vibrant Village Programme, setting up of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas, construction of hostels for PVTGs under PM-JANMAN, construction of hostels under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya

Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan for unsaturated ST population etc. In the financial year 2025-26 more than Rs 37,000 crore has been released as the central share under this scheme.

- **PM-SHRI:** Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, in which existing schools managed by Central Government/State/UT Government/local bodies are strengthened and upgraded. A total of 13,092 PM SHRI schools have been selected from 33 States/UTs along with Kendriya Vidyalaya (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya (NVS) through transparent challenge process out of which more than 9,000 PM SHRI schools are in rural areas of the country.
- **PM-USHA:** Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at funding State government universities and colleges, so as to improve their infrastructure and quality by ensuring their conformity to prescribed norms and standards. Under PM-USHA, priority is given to districts based on Gross Enrollment Ratio, Aspirational/Border areas, gender parity and the proportion of disadvantaged categories such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes. The government has launched its third phase for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26 with an outlay of Rs.12926.10 crore to cater to the needs of educationally underserved and rural areas.

The NEP 2020 also emphasises on integration of technology, digital tools & connectivity to expand access to quality education. Under Samagra Shiksha, ICT laboratories, smart classrooms, and digital boards are being established in rural schools. The National Knowledge Network (NKN) initiative provides high speed internet to educational institutions. Initiatives such as PM eVIDYA, SWAYAM, and SWAYAM Prabha provide multi-lingual e-content for students and teachers, promoting blended and remote learning. The details are as follows:

- **NKN Connectivity:** The National Knowledge Network (NKN), initiated by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), is a secure and high-speed digital backbone for connectivity. Under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) Scheme of Ministry of Education (MoE), funds are released to provide 1 Gbps bandwidth connectivity to various Higher Education Institution across India. So far, more than 370 Higher Education institutions have been provided connectivity under this component.
- **Samagra Shiksha:** Under the scheme financial assistance is also provided for establishing ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms in schools. As per PRABANDH portal, till date 1,30,453 ICT Labs and 1,17,705 Smart Classrooms have been functional under this element of Samagra Shiksha.
- **PM eVIDYA:** The Government of India has launched PM eVIDYA as a comprehensive initiative to unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to school education across the country. Under the program 200 PM eVidya DTH TV Channels to enable all States/UTs to provide supplementary education in various Indian languages including for classes 1-12.
- **DIKSHA:** Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) is a platform for providing quality e-content for school education along with QR coded Energised Textbooks (ETBs) for all grades. DIKSHA supports AI enabled personalised adaptive learning. More than 2.29 crore users have completed learning sessions on DIKSHA by students, teachers and other stakeholders.
- **SWAYAM:** With a view to democratise quality education through digital technology, the Ministry of Education has initiated the SWAYAM online platform to provide free access to courses from premier institutions. There have been more than 20,000 deliveries of courses on the platform, with cumulative enrolments exceeding 6 crores since its inception. The annual enrolment on the platform has increased substantially from 49.8 lakh in the year 2021 to 92.1 lakh in 2025.

- **SWAYAM Prabha:** SWAYAM Prabha is an initiative of the Government of India that provides high-quality educational content through a network of 48 DTH television channels including for Sathee initiative, aimed at ensuring uninterrupted learning for students across the country, particularly those in remote and rural areas. As on date, educational video lectures with a total time more than 1,40,000 broadcast hours are available on the web platform.

Further, NEP 2020 promotes equitable access to quality education for socio economically disadvantaged groups (SEDGs), including girls, children with special needs, and learners from rural, tribal, and marginalised communities. Government's measures to fulfil these aims include providing nutrition, scholarships, and instruction in the mother-tongue. Initiatives such as PM-Poshan, and PM-Vidyalaxmi provide nutrition and financial assistance to students to access education and aim to ensure retention. The details are as follows:

- **PM – POSHAN:** Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme is one of the foremost rights-based Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented in partnership with the States and UTs for providing one hot cooked and nutritious meal to all children studying in Bal Vatika and classes I to VIII of Government and Government-aided schools. The aim of the scheme is to provide nutrition to students and ensure their retention in the education system. In the financial year 2025-26 more than Rs 10,400 crore has been released as the central share under this scheme.
- **PM Vidyalaxmi:** It is a central sector scheme to ensure that no student is denied the opportunity to pursue higher education due to financial constraints. Under the scheme, collateral-free and guarantor-free education loan is provided to all the students, including students from minority communities who get merit-based admission in top Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs). Further, for students with annual family income up to ₹ 8 lakh, the scheme provides 3% interest subvention on education loans up to ₹ 10 lakhs.
