

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1928
ANSWERED ON 13/03/2023

**Internet Connection and Computer Labs in
Schools in Maharashtra**

1928. SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schools having internet connection along with schools equipped with computer labs with adequate seating capacity in the State of Maharashtra;
- (b) the details of funds allocated during each of the last three years to Maharashtra for this purpose;
- (c) whether the Union Government has received request from the State Government of Maharashtra to help them to cover more and more schools with internet connectivity; and
- (d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) & (b) : As per UDISE+ 2021-22, there are 18540 Govt. schools having Internet Connection. The details of the schools having computer labs/smart class rooms along with the details of funds allocated during the last 3 years to the State of Maharashtra is as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	ICT Labs		Smart Class Rooms	
	Approval	Financial	Approval	Financial
2020-21	-	35.0*	-	-
2021-22	-	-	887	21.28
2022-23	-	-	2405	57.72

**only recurring cost for the previous approved ICT labs has been recommended during the PAB.*

Source: Prabandh

(c) & (d): Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under domain of respective State and UT Government. Department of School Education and Literacy has launched the Samagra Shiksha– an Integrated Scheme for School Education from 2018-19. It envisages the ‘school’ as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to Senior Secondary levels. It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. Samagra Shiksha is implemented in partnership with all the States and UTs and financial assistance is provided to all States and UTs for various components including strengthening of ICT infrastructure in schools.

Under Samagra Shiksha, ICT component envisages covering all Government and Aided schools from classes VI to XII, subject to the availability of budgetary provision.

A. Options under ICT:

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.

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.

B. Financial Provisions:

ICT Lab: Onetime non-recurring grant upto Rs 6.40 lakh per school and a recurring grant of upto Rs. 2.40 lakh per school per annum for a period of 5 years.

Smart Classrooms: Onetime Non-recurring grant of Rs. 2.40 lakh and the recurring grant of Rs. 0.38 lakh for a period of 5 years.

BSNL has informed that, the Department of Telecom has given responsibility to BSNL to improve the rural connectivity using Bharat Net Assets and BSNL is taking steps for further extending its services across one lakh forty thousand plus Gram Panchayats in the country. On 11.07.2022, DoSEL has issued an advisory to all the States and UTs to enter into an MoU/ Agreement with BSNL and provide FTTH Internet connection to all the Govt. Schools which have computing devices.