

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2055**

ANSWERED ON 13/03/2023

Digital Literacy for Tribal Children under NEP

2055. SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the technological initiatives that are being taken under New Education Policy for reaching out to the tribal children and bridging the digital divide;
- (b) the details of efforts being made by the Government for increasing digital literacy and empowerment of tribals; and
- (c) the strategy chalked out by the Government for ensuring availability of affordable computing devices to tribal children thus bridging the digital divide under NEP?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a) to (c): The National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 has stated in Para 4.23 that digital literacy, coding, and computational thinking are imperatives for curriculum. NEP 2020 in para 23.6 (Chapter 23) has mentioned the promotion of regional languages and development of eContent by all States in all regional languages. Also, para 23.6 of NEP 2020 mentions the availability of educational software in all major Indian languages to make it accessible to a wide range of users including students in remote areas and Divyang students.

A comprehensive initiative called **PM eVIDYA** has been 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. The eContents/programme uploaded under PM eVidya are based on NCERT curriculum. Besides this, many states have also offered and uploaded their e-Contents for PM eVIDYA, in line with the curriculum of their education boards/SCERTs. The initiative includes:

- DIKSHA (one nation, one digital platform) is the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in states/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades are available on it.
- One earmarked Swayam Prabha TV channel per class from 1 to 12 (one class, one channel).
- Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and CBSE Podcast- Shiksha Vani.
- Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/ YouTube.

All these schemes/programmes are available to all the students across the nation.

Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools, colleges and universities are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. The state governments have been advised to act based on the situation prevailing at every place to meet the demands of students and teachers for providing them with the digital access required for teaching learning digitally. As part of ICT and Digital Initiatives component of Samagra Shiksha, ICT Labs and Smart Class rooms are sanctioned in the Government Schools having classes VI to XII. For setting up **ICT Lab**, 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 is sanctioned. For setting up Smart Class rooms, non-recurring grant of Rs. 2.40 lakh per school and recurring grant of Rs. 0.38 lakh is sanctioned.

The State/UT wise data regarding availability of infrastructure like internet, electricity and computers is available at serial No. 33 (Id 3106), 2 (Id 3016) and 34 (Id 3109) respectively under the sub-heading **Infrastructure** of which the UDISE++ link has been provided herewith:

<https://dashboard.udiseplus.gov.in/#/reportDashboard/sReport>
