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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4220
ANSWERED ON 27/03/2023

Steps for Improvement of Internet Accessibility in
Government/Government Aided Schools

4220.   SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has directed the States to increase the usage of ICT in school education in Government and Government aided schools for imparting education in emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic under the NEP, 2020;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated, disbursed and funds utilized for the Financial Year 2021-22, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has taken steps to improve the internet accessibility in Government and Government aided schools in States having poor internet connection such as Assam, Odisha and Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

<div align="center">ANSWER</div>

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

(a) & (b):   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.

The State/UT wise details of Financial approval of ICT and Smart Classrooms for the year 2021-22 are at **Annexure –I**.

PRAGYATA guidelines were issued to the States/UTs to facilitate continued education through various modes. The guidelines inter-alia include situation where internet connectivity is not available or available with very less bandwidth, resources are shared through various platforms like television, radio etc. that do not depend on internet. Similarly, Students Learning Enhancement Guidelines were released in 2020 to support learning of children during COVID-19. Guidelines for development of e-content for children with special needs have been released. Guidelines for parent participation in Home- based learning during school closure and beyond have also been released in 2021.

(c) & (d):   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.

The State/UT-Wise details of Government schools which have internet connection are at **Annexure-II.**

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ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) AND (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4220 FOR REPLY ON 27TH MARCH, 2023 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE REGARDING STEPS FOR IMPROVEMNET OF INTERNET OF INTERNET ACCESSIBILITY IN GOVERNMENT/ GOVERNMENT AIDED SCHOOLS.

The State/UT-wise Financial approval of ICT and Smart Classrooms for the year 2021-22 is as under: -

(Rs. in Crore)

State/UT	Financial Approval (2021-22)	
	ICT Lab	Smart Class room*
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3.0	0.0
Andhra Pradesh	59.3	26.9
Arunachal Pradesh	5.6	0.0
Assam	155.0	87.4
Bihar	0.0	65.7
Chandigarh	0.3	2.1
Chhattisgarh	13.8	70.9
Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	2.2	2.0
Delhi	0.0	21.5
Goa	0.2	0.0
Gujarat	0.0	104.0
Haryana	18.3	29.0
Himachal Pradesh	35.7	39.2
Jammu and Kashmir	51.8	12.4
Jharkhand	79.1	12.5
Karnataka	63.7	0.0
Kerala	0.0	2.8
Ladakh	2.1	0.5
Lakshadweep	0.3	0.2
Madhya Pradesh	28.2	16.8
Maharashtra	0.0	21.3
Manipur	10.0	7.4
Meghalaya	5.7	0.0
Mizoram	0.8	4.8
Nagaland	0.0	2.7
Odisha	43.4	107.3
Puducherry	1.1	2.4
Punjab	37.5	68.9
Rajasthan	38.1	66.1
Sikkim	8.9	5.7
Tamil Nadu	149.9	20.8
Telangana	39.1	72.2
Tripura	22.8	6.0
Uttar Pradesh	0.0	13.0
Uttarakhand	34.6	17.0
West Bengal	93.3	0.0
Total	**1003.8**	**909.6**

Source: PRABANDH

*Provision for Smart Classrooms introduced in Samagra Shiksha in 2020-21.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) AND (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4220 FOR REPLY ON 27TH MARCH, 2023 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE REGARDING STEPS FOR IMPROVEMNET OF INTERNET OF INTERNET ACCESSIBILITY IN GOVERNMENT/ GOVERNMENT AIDED SCHOOLS.

The State/UT-wise details of Government and Government Aided schools which have internet connection are as follows:

State/UT	Total Govt. Schools	Total Govt. Aided School	Government Schools having Internet connections	Aided Schools having Internet connections
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	342	2	133	2
Andhra Pradesh	45137	1542	20313	756
Arunachal Pradesh	2985	68	458	38
Assam	45490	3841	4680	265
Bihar	75558	742	4421	65
Chandigarh	123	7	123	7
Chhattisgarh	48743	417	16469	153
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	388	8	194	8
Delhi	2762	247	2762	247
Goa	814	557	299	459
Gujarat	34699	5590	32681	4685
Haryana	14562	16	4345	14
Himachal Pradesh	15380		4175	
Jammu & Kashmir	23173	1	5169	1
Jharkhand	35840	1175	12052	390
Karnataka	49679	7110	5308	3133
Kerala	5010	7183	4738	6938
Ladakh	838	28	342	13
Lakshadweep	38		37	
Madhya Pradesh	92695	740	16469	254
Maharashtra	65639	24037	18540	16985
Manipur	2889	583	340	64
Meghalaya	7783	4172	1111	782
Mizoram	2563	230	153	31
Nagaland	1960		850	
Odisha	49072	5807	3970	1012
Puducherry	422	33	422	31
Punjab	19259	450	9013	386
Rajasthan	68948		36889	
Sikkim	864	19	231	8
Tamil Nadu	37636	8323	9292	3207
Telangana	30023	700	2772	188
Tripura	4262	43	682	14
Uttar Pradesh	137024	8113	12074	3366
Uttarakhand	16484	608	2575	246
West Bengal	83302	88	12918	47
India	**1022386**	**82480**	**247000**	**43795**

Source :UDISE+ 2021-22