

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 4362
ANSWERED ON – 27/03/2023**

Rural Student Community Facing Technical Crisis

4362. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the rural student community is facing crisis;
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the action taken by the Government for giving training to get technical skills to teachers and students for online teaching and learning;
- (d) whether rural management matches/meets the requirement of the new online education system;
- (e) if so, the action taken by the Government to make them conversant with the technology;
- (f) whether the lack of internet facility is a deterrent for education to rural community;
- (g) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (h) whether the rural students are not able to attend their online classes due to lack of electronic gadgets; and
- (i) if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) & (b) Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the schools come under the purview of the respective State and UT Governments. The Government of India launched Samagra Shiksha - an Integrated Scheme for school education, w.e.f 2018-19, as an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII, which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education, across the country. The scheme provides support to States and UTs for strengthening of infrastructure in schools, universal access, bringing gender equality, promoting inclusive education, quality of education, financial support for teachers' salary, digital initiatives, entitlements under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 including uniforms and textbooks, preschool education, vocational education, sports and physical education and strengthening of teacher education institutions.

(c) to (i) The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education launched a National Mission to improve learning outcomes at the Elementary level through an Integrated

Teacher Training Programme called NISHTHA – National Initiative for School Heads’ and Teachers’ Holistic Advancement on 21st August, 2019. The aim of this integrated teacher training programme was to build the capacities of around 42 lakh elementary teachers and Heads of Schools, faculty members of SCERTs and DIETs and Block Resource Coordinators and Cluster Resource Coordinators. In view of the COVID pandemic, ‘NISHTHA - Online was launched on 06th October, 2020 and the remaining training of NISHTHA at elementary level was conducted online by the NCERT on the DIKSHA platform using high quality professionally made e-content. There are various NISHTHA modules like NISHTHA (Elementary Level), NISHTHA 1.0 (Elementary Level), NISHTHA 2.0 (Secondary Level), NISHTHA 3.0 (Foundational Literacy and Numeracy) for NIPUN Bharat and NISHTHA 4.0 (Early Childhood Care and Education) which are available for different levels. NISHTHA can be accessed from the link: <https://itpd.ncert.gov.in/>

To facilitate the online learning by all students a comprehensive initiative called PM eVIDYA has been initiated as part of AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan on 17th May, 2020, which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multimode access to education. 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 in the public domain to all the students across the nation.

SWAYAM is a programme initiated by Government of India and designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of Education Policy viz., access, equity and quality. The objective of this effort is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged and to bridge the digital divide for students.

Where the digital facility (mobile device/ DTH television) is not available, Ministry of Education has taken many initiatives like Community Radio Stations and a podcast called Shiksha Vani of CBSE, Textbooks, worksheet supplied to residence of learners, Handbook on 21st Century Skills and community/mohalla classes. Innovation Funds under Samagra Shiksha have been used to set up mobile school, virtual studios, virtual class rooms in schools, Continuous Learning Plan (CLP), pre-loaded tablets etc. in various states and UTs in remote/rural areas where online classes are difficult.
