GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1614
ANSWERED ON 31.07.2023

Education Programmes

1614. SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to provide adequate importance and prominence to quality Educational Channels and programmes by both Prasar Bharti and private sponsor programme as well as the programme by CSIR and UGC;

(b) the funds allocated, disbursed and utilised during the last eight years, year-wise for the production and telecast of education programmes;

(c) the details of the educational programmes done in various regional languages to reach out the people from all linguistic areas of the country; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to promote/propagate the Government schemes and policies in Tamil language?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) With the objective to overcome the digital divide particularly in rural, tribal and remote areas, Ministry of Education provides high quality educational programmes through DTH channels. As on date, 92 DTH channels under MoE offer educational content for School and Higher Education and DTH capacity would be expanded to 280 channels shortly under PM eVidya program.

The programmes for higher education students are offered through various National Coordinators such as University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), IIM Bangalore and IIT Madras who curate and broadcast high quality educational programmes in collaboration with various institutions, including research institutions. All users of DD FreeDish of Prasar Bharti have access to these channels.

Private DTH operators can also telecast the higher education content developed under SWAYAM Prabha program without any additional cost.

(b) Fund released by Ministry of Education for various purposes such as content development, production and telecast etc.are as follows:

(Rs. In Crore)

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23**	Total
Allocated	-	-	63.4	55.6	52.0	26.9	29.2	251.2	478.3
Released & Utilized	-	-	63.4	55.6	28.0	26.9	29.2	251.2	454.3

** Includes cost for expansion of 12 School education DTH channels to 200 under PM eVidya

(c) With an objective to reach out to people of diverse linguistic areas of the country, IGNOU as a National Coordinator of SWAYAM PRABHA, conducts live classes of various courses (History, Political Science, Sociology, Economics, Psychology, Public Administration and Environmental Science) on SWAYAM PRABHA in 11 regional languages which are Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu & Urdu along with Hindi and English since 06 January 2022. Till date 4500+ sessions have been conducted. All videos in regional languages are available on SWAYAM PRABHA archive. 250 MOOCs courses of SWAYAM have also been translated into 11 regional languages for wider dissemination.

(d) The National Language Technology Mission (DIGITAL INDIA BHASHINI), has been launched to provide Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven language technology solutions through Bhashini platform (https://bhashini.gov.in) as 3-year mission for all 22 Scheduled Indian Languages including Tamil. BHASHINI aims to increase the content in Indian languages on the internet substantially in the domains of public interest, particularly, governance, policy, and science & technology, etc.

AICTE has also developed an AI based translation tool Anuvadini which offer translation services for a wide variety of application including translation of public websites, textbooks, educational videos etc and is being used for translation of all type of education resources.

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