

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2814**

**ANSWERED ON 07/08/2023**

**EDTech to Overcome Pandemic Learning Loss**

2814. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government realises that it is time to examine how EdTech can supplement school education to make up the pandemic related learning loss;
- (b) if so, the initiatives proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) Covid-19 pandemic has presented unprecedented challenges for the education sector as the schools could not open for most part of the academic years and large migrations took place all over the country. The extended school closures have interrupted the learning process of children and caused learning loss at every stage. Consequently, the Department has taken several initiatives to ensure that the school going students do not lag behind in their studies during the pandemic. During the pandemic, the Ministry of Education has taken various steps for providing children continued access to education, which are available to each category of students irrespective of their region or economic strata.

Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) is the national infrastructure platform for school and is architected as a set of building blocks that has enabled seamless collaboration with the education ecosystem including EdTech platforms.

Keeping in view the availability of collaborative digital infrastructure such as DIKSHA, Ministry of Education issued PRAGYATA Guidelines on Digital Education. These guidelines provide a roadmap or pointers for carrying forward enhanced quality online education. The guidelines are useful for a diverse set of stakeholders including school heads, teachers, parents, teacher educators and students. The guidelines brief on various modes of digital education including online mode that depends more on availability of internet, partially online mode that utilizes the blended approach of digital technology and other offline activities, and offline mode that utilizes television and radio as a major medium of instruction of education. It also outlines the support to be provided to students with special needs. Main emphasis is on balanced online and offline activities keeping the screen time as an essential parameter according to the level of students. The guidelines can be accessed at:

[https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/pragyata-guidelines\\_0.pdf](https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/pragyata-guidelines_0.pdf)

Learning programmes have also been started in the form of offline learning tools in the form of radio, community radio and CBSE podcasts, toll free numbers, missed call, SMS based requests for audio content, localized radio content for edutainment etc. The medium of TV, radio has been used for the students who do not have digital means.

In order to make up the pandemic related learning loss, Learning Enhancement Guidelines have been issued. These have been prepared on the basis of the recommendations and reports of States/UTs which are as following:

- Learning enhancement during COVID-19 for students without digital devices.
- Learning enhancement during COVID-19 for students with limited access to digital devices.
- Learning enhancement during COVID-19 for students with digital devices.

[https://ncert.nic.in/pdf/announcement/Learning\\_%20Enhancement\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://ncert.nic.in/pdf/announcement/Learning_%20Enhancement_Guidelines.pdf)

Further, a comprehensive initiative called **PM e-VIDYA** 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 multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes:

- DIKSHA the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in states/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (**one nation, one digital platform**).
- 12 DTH Channels in school education and 22 SWAYAM PRABHA channels in higher education are already functional. As per budget announcement for Financial Year 2022-23, the 12 DTH Channels would be expanded to 200 (Two hundred) PM e-Vidya DTH TV Channels.
- NIOS and NCERT are National Coordinator for school sector courses under SWAYAM, delivering school courses from 9th to 12th.
- 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.**

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