

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOKSABHA  
UNSTARREDQUESTION NO.1236  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.09.2020

**Distribution of Electronic Gadgets for Students to Study Online**

1236.SHRI TALARI RANGAIAH:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has taken any steps to distribute electronic gadgets to students for studying online; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to address on the serious concerns related to online education in this difficult times;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has made any attempts to resolve the issues of the students especially related to their physical and mental health during this pandemic and if so, the details thereof

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION  
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')**

(a) and (b)The steps taken by all the States for providing online education is compiled in a report called India Report Digital Education which can be accessed on - [https://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/India\\_Report\\_Digital\\_Education\\_0.pdf](https://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/India_Report_Digital_Education_0.pdf).

(c) and (d)A comprehensive initiative called PM eVIDYA has been initiated which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes: -

- (i) Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) ranked in top 100 NIRF or NAAC score of 3.26 can offer online programme without prior approval of UGC. Institutions

with NAAC score of 3.01 to 3.25 can offer online programme with prior approval of UGC.

- (ii) For conventional courses, the online content has been increased from up to 20% to 40% in regular degree programmes.
- (iii) 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).
- (iv) Study materials have been provided on an experimental basis for 12 channels for classes 1 to 12 on SWAYAM Prabha and actions are expedited to run these channels in a full-fledged manner.
- (v) Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and CBSE Podcast- Shiksha Vani.
- (vi) Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/ YouTube.

In addition to above,online resources are provided through the various initiatives of the Government - SWAYAM, e-Pathshala, e-PG Pathshala, Virtual Labs, National Digital Library (NDL) and National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER).

(e) The Ministry has undertaken an initiative, named Manodarpan, covering a wide range of activities to provide psychological support to students, teachers and families for mental health and emotional wellbeing during the Covid-19 outbreak and beyond. There is a provision of tele-counseling to address their mental health and psychological issues. NCERT has issued a detailed guideline under the document PRAGYATA which highlights important measures to be followed while using digital platforms.

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