

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1354
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th September, 2020**

Online Education for Children with Special Needs

1354. SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of strategies proposed to be adopted by the Government for conducting online classes for children with special needs and primary and upper primary students;
- (b) whether it is a fact that providing Mid-Day Meal to above class of students is a big challenge and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are any plans before the Government to supply cooked or packed Mid-Day Meal to children at their home; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Various steps have been taken to ensure that the online education is accessible to Children with Special Needs (CWSN) across the country, the steps taken are as follows:

- Study material has been developed in Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY), a technical standard for digital audiobooks, periodicals and computerized text. These lessons are broadcast on Gyanamrit, Channel 30 of Swayam Prabha |
https://www.swayamprabha.gov.in/index.php/channel_profile/profile/30
- NIOS has also developed more than 270 Videos in Sign Language in 7 subjects to provide educational access to learners at secondary level and Yoga course. These videos are available at
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXBn5q8Zv4Bz-LZXWWD7Jxw/playlists>

- Accessibility in School Curriculum-NCERT's Initiatives can be found here <https://ciet.nic.in/pages.php?id=accesstoedu&ln=en&ln=en>
- The recorded content is sent to Hearing Impaired learners on DVD.

The steps taken by all the states for all students including Children With Special Needs (CWSN) are shown in this report - India Report Digital Education June 2020.

https://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/India_Report_Digital_Education_0.pdf

Para 3.4 of the Pragyata Guidelines issued by Ministry of Education focuses to Support the Online Learning of Children With Special Needs (CWSN).

https://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/pragyata-guidelines_0.pdf

(b) to (d) Since, it is not possible to provide hot cooked meal under the prevailing circumstances (COVID-19), State Government and UT Administrations were advised to provide Food Security Allowance (FSA) comprising of foodgrains, pulses, oil etc (equivalent to cooking cost) to all eligible children till such time their schools are closed. The modalities for this purpose may be decided by the respective States and UTs, suitable to the prevailing circumstances.
