

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 191
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03.2021**

Education to Deprived Students

*191. SHRI ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to identify students who are not in a position to return to classes when schools reopen, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for those students whose economic circumstances have changed due to the Covid-19 pandemic impact on their families; and

(c) whether the Government has planned any special initiative for the students at the margins who have been deprived of online education during Covid-19 pandemic and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons, therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 191 TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03.2021 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SHRI ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA REGARDING "EDUCATION TO DEPRIVED STUDENTS".

(a) to (c) Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and most of the schools comes under the purview of the respective State and UT Governments. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) vide their order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 30th September, 2020 has stated that State/UT Governments may take a decision in respect of re-opening of schools, after 15th October, 2020, in a graded manner, The decision shall be taken in consultation with the respective school/institution management, based on their assessment of the situation. The students may attend schools/institutions only with the written consent of parents. Online /distance learning shall continue to be the preferred mode of teaching and shall be encouraged.

Further, In order to ensure that children have access to education with quality and equity and to minimize the impact of the pandemic on school education in the country, the Department of School Education has issued detailed guidelines on 7th January, 2021 to by the States and UTs. The Guidelines, among others, include identification of out of school children from age 6-18 years, enrolment drives and awareness generation, student support while schools are closed, continued education for Children with Special Needs (CWSN). The link of these guidelines is at:

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

During COVID-19 Pandemic, this Ministry has taken many initiatives to ensure that the school going students who cannot afford a smart phone or other technological devices don't lag behind in their studies during COVID-19 pandemic which include the following:

- **One Class One Channel of Swayam Prabha:** 12 DTH Channel of Swayam Prabha for School Education are meant to support and reach those who do not have access to the internet.
- **Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and Podcasts:** Radio broadcasting is being used for children in remote areas who are not online.

Community Radio Stations have also been used to broadcast content for NIOS for grades 9 to 12. A Podcast called Shiksha Vani is being effectively used by learners of grades 9 to 12.

- **For the differently-abled:** One DTH channel is being operated specifically for hearing impaired students in sign language. For visually and hearing impaired students, study material has been developed in Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language; both are available on NIOS website/ YouTube.
- **Other activities undertaken include the following:**
 - Alternative Academic Calendar which is based on experiential learning with the help of community available experiences.
 - Textbooks supplied to residence of learners
 - Energised Textbooks with QR code e-content (3567 text books)
 - Worksheets for students.
