

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4330
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22nd March, 2021

Online Education in Rural Areas

4330. SHRI ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) according to the 75th National Sample Survey of India published by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, only 4 per cent of rural household possess computer and only 15 per cent of rural households have access to internet;

(b) if so, whether the Government plans on formulating a policy to provide low-cost devices (smartphones, tablets, laptops) and internet access to students, enabling the less privileged students to cope with the demands of online education and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government has taken steps to improve the school infrastructure in rural India Considering rural Government schools lack basic academic support infrastructure such as library, laboratory, sports facilities and teaching aids and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION

(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a) Internet access under BHARAT NET scheme has been made available to Govt institutions and to improve the internet connectivity in rural areas the CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd (CSC-SPV) of MEITY has been assigned the task of providing Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connectivity to the Government Institutions,

including schools. This project is for providing Internet connection to Government schools in respective Gram Panchayats.

(b) The National Education Policy, 2020 calls for benefits of online/digital education to all children. Para 24.4 (f) of the new education policy discusses the possibilities of digital equipment suitable for poor students.

(c) One of the major interventions for improving quality of education under the Samagra Shiksha scheme includes provision for library and books across all levels of school education. It includes providing grant for libraries in government schools.

Under the Samagra Shiksha, Sports and Physical Education component has been introduced for the first time for encouragement of Sports, Physical activities, Yoga, Co-curricular activities etc.
