

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1133
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2021

Out of School students

1133. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:
SHRIMATI RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI:
SHRI D.K.SURESH:
SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:
DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:
DR. AMAR SINGH:
DR. A. CHALLAKUMAR:
SHRI KUMBAKUDI SUDHAKARAN:
SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:
SHRI VINCENT H. PALA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognisance of the recent increase in out-of-school children to 5.5 per cent (from 4 per cent in 2018) as per the Annual Status of Education Report(ASIR);
- (b) if so, the details thereof including reasons for the same and measures to address increasing dropouts;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the gap between the demand and availability of adequate digital infrastructure for students in rural areas and from economically weaker sections;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the number of rural schools that have been equipped with digital infrastructure (such as computers, internet access, etc.) from March 2020 till date?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) & (b): The Annual Status of Education Report is released by a non-governmental organization. Ministry of Education is not associated with the survey.

(c) & (d): 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 standard. A comprehensive initiative called PM e-Vidya has been started which aims to unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes all forms of digital modes to provide remote access DIKSHA (online), SWAYAM (online), SWAYAM PRABHA (TV), other TV Channels including use of Doordarshan and Air Networks. Further, Pragyata guidelines were issued to States/UTs to facilitate continued education through various modes. The guidelines provide all forms of digital modes to provide remote access, inter-alia, include situation where internet connectivity is not available or available with very less bandwidth, resources are shared through various platforms like television, radio etc that do not depend on internet. An alternate Academic Calendar has been prepared for learning solutions for grade 1 to 12 for both children with and without device. Besides these, community radio, worksheets & textbooks supplied to residence of learners, home visits by teachers, community classes, toll free numbers, SMS based requests for audio content, localised radio content for edutainment etc have been used. The steps taken by all the states are shown in the - India Report Digital Education June 2020, which is available at the following link:

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

(e): As per Unified District Information System for Education 2019-20 (provisional), 53725, 22804, 39693 and 99116 government schools in rural areas have been provided with ICT facilities, digital board, PCs integrated teaching learning devices and internet facilities respectively.
