

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 143
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th July, 2021**

Quality Education in Uttar Pradesh

†143. SHRIMATI KESHARI DEVI PATEL:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government for quality education of children during COVID - 19 in various districts of Uttar Pradesh including Prayagraj ;
- (b) the facilities provided/ proposed to be provided by the Government to encourage digital education in Uttar Pradesh along with the names of the schemes for benefits of children of economically weaker sections ; and
- (b) the steps taken/ to be taken by them Government to provide quality education to the children of poor families not having smart phones in UP ?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a): Education is in Concurrent List of the Constitution. During COVID-19, the Central Government has taken various steps to ensure quality education of all children across the country including Uttar Pradesh, through various means. A comprehensive initiative called PM eVIDYA has been initiated which aims to unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes DIKSHA, SWAYAM, SWAYAM PRABHA TV Channels, use of Doordarshan and AIR Networks. Further, 'Pragyata' guidelines were issued to States/UTs to facilitate continued education through various digital/electronic modes. The guidelines, inter-alia, includes situations 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 connectivity.

The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed that that it has taken inter-alia the following steps to mitigate the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on education of school children:

- i. A household survey was conducted to identify the Out-of-School Children (OoSC) and ensure their enrollment in age-appropriate classes.
- ii. Prerna Lakshya App has been devised to enable students' from Grades 1-5 to practice Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) learning competencies.

- iii. Online quiz for all students from Grade 1-8 and e-Monitoring for teachers has been launched on e-Pathshala in June 2021. The mentors conduct online sessions with schools as a substitute for their school visits in regular circumstances.

(b): The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported various initiatives to encourage digital education including for the children of economically weaker sections, as under:

- i. **About 800 TV episodes were created** for broadcast over Doordarshan. Contents have been uploaded on DIKSHA and are shared by WhatsApp in coherence with the TV broadcast schedule. Recently, a new academic calendar has been developed.
- ii. **Energized textbooks (ETB):** In grades 1 to 8, for all core subjects (14), 77 ETBs have been developed with around 1300 QR codes which are live on DIKSHA.
- iii. **VidyaDaan** program was started with 11 projects covering around 55 ETBs.
- iv. **e-Pathshala1.0** was launched to cater to the learning need during the lockdown, focusing on two major areas - Content creation and dissemination.
- v. **Content Dissemination –**
 - ✓ **WhatsApp** - All 1.5L schools (including Upper primary) created at least one WhatsApp group with their students. The content was sent each morning on the WhatsApp groups.
 - ✓ **e-Pathshala 2.0:** Launched in mid-September, along with streamlining of the online content, a strand of offline access was included where teachers would call parents to schools and guide them on what to and how to teach students at home.

(c): To provide quality education to the children of poor families not having smart phones, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported initiatives, as under:

- i. **Weekly home visits by teachers** to inform parents about the initiatives taken under the Mission Prerna, and enabling parents to help achieve the Prerna Lakshya for their child.
- ii. **Mohalla class initiative:** The Mohalla class initiative is undertaken to bring the education to children doorstep while ensuring the safety of both teachers and students.
- iii. **Engaging volunteers:** At the district level, volunteers were trained to take remedial classes for students so that they achieve the learning outcome of their class and can bridge the learning gaps.
- iv. **Worksheets** were distributed among the students during community visits by teachers. The remedial teaching materials based on worksheet assessment were provided to students to fulfill the learning gaps.