

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2093
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02ND AUGUST, 2021

Digital education during CORONA

2093. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that children from economically weaker backgraunds have fallen behind as classes shifted to digital mode and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to help children and students from socially and economically weaker backgrounds to access digital and online mode of classes and study material;

(c) whether the Government has launched any platform to provide free access to digital/online classes and study material, details thereof including number of users and number of classes taken and study material accessed;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to support State Government to tackle the issue of digital exlusion of students and children from education; and

(e) whether the Government has allocated funds for improvement of digital education in the Budget 2021-22 and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION

(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (c) A comprehensive initiative called **PM eVIDYA** has been initiated as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan on 17th May, 2020, which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education.

The initiative includes:

- DIKSHA (one nation, one digital platform) is the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in states/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades are available on it.

- One earmarked Swayam Prabha TV channel per class from 1 to 12 (one class, one channel).
- Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and CBSE Podcast- Shiksha Vani.
- Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/ YouTube.

All these schemes/programmes are free of cost and available to all the students across the nation.

Also, to reach out to those students who lack access to technology various innovative activities are being done at national, state or district level such as Gali-Gali Sim-Sim, Tili-Mili programme, Motor Eskool, Roving Teacher, Project SMILE (Social Media Interface for Learning Engagement), e-Kaksha, formation of Whatsap and other social media groups, Work Book Distribution at home, Teacher calling to maintain connects with students.

(d) and (e) School Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and the state governments have been directed to act based on the situation prevailing at every place to meet the demands of all students for providing them with the digital access required for learning digitally. Depending on the states' requirement the Ministry of Education provides Rs.6.40 Lakh for setting up computer labs and Rs.2.40 Lakh for smart classroom. Also, the approval in 2021-22 for ICT, DIKSHA and Smart classrooms are given below:

- An amount of Rs. 68685.2 Lakh is approved under Non- recurring head for ICT lab in 10727 schools.
- An amount Rs. 94633.20 Lakh is approved for smart classrooms in 42204 schools under the Non- Recurring head.
- An amount of Rs.1098.01 Lakh is also recommended under DIKSHA for development of digital contents.
