GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2254
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2021

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

†2254. SHRI ANIL FIROJIYA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of methods likely to be used in view of the prevailing conditions of Covid-19 to take forward the "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" programme;

(b) whether any scheme is being formulated to bring improvements in the digital education system;

(c) if so, the manner in which these improvements are likely to be done along with the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a): In view of Covid-19, activities under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme (EBSB) are being carried out in online mode. The activities *inter alia* include learning the language of paired State, preparation of dishes, celebration of EBSB Days, webinars/ lectures on festivals/ food/ culture/ other information etc. of paired State/ UT, quiz/ essay/ painting competitions, etc. A Digital Repository has been developed on EBSB Portal for all online/ digital material developed by participating Ministries. 'Aaj Ka Vakya', a language learning initiative in which a sentence is shared every day in 22 Indian languages, is being run through EBSB Portal and social media handles of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat and the websites of participating Ministries. A 'Recipe Corner' has also been launched where people can share recipes of their regions. More details about the programme and activities conducted are available at https://ekbharat.gov.in/.

(b) to (d): Yes, PM e-Vidya is a programme under Atma Nirbhar Bharat for multi-mode access to digital/online education. It consists of the following four kinds of digital education resources:

i. One nation, one digital education platform: DIKSHA portal for school education in states/UTs

ii. One class, one channel: One earmarked TV channel per class from 1 to 12

iii. Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and Podcasts

iv. Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired.

Further, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education is administering 'National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology' (NMEICT) Scheme to leverage the potential of ICT, in providing high quality personalized and interactive knowledge modules over the internet/ intranet for all the learners in Higher Education Institutions in anytime anywhere mode. Under this scheme, various digital initiatives are being undertaken viz. SWAYAM ("Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds"), SWAYAM Prabha, National Digital Library (NDL), Virtual Lab, e-Yantra, FOSSEE, NEAT (National Education Alliance for technology) etc. to ensure quality education to students, across the country.

In order to promote Online education, UGC has notified necessary regulation, which facilitates the Universities to offer full-fledged Online Program. The current provisions of 20 per cent Online courses in a programme, as per provisions of UGC SWAYAM and ODL Regulations, enhanced up to maximum 40 per cent.