

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 29
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2021**

Compromised education of millions of students

29. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken/being taken by the Government keeping in mind that a year into the pandemic and the long-term impact on education is already threatening an entire generation of our youth through poor skill attainment and compromised instruction, and this shall directly impact their ability to attain proficiencies for employability?
- (b) whether mitigating the severe setback to education and rehabilitating the compromised education of millions of students across the country through appropriate remedies are the only ways in which damage to our student community can be minimized;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

(a) to (c): It is a fact that in the year 2020-21, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected many countries and territories globally and has led to disruptions in normal life, including the closure of educational institutions. To mitigate the impact of the pandemic, educational institutions have remodelled and re-imagined the teaching & learning and have introduced suitable methods of delivering quality education. Several initiatives have been taken by Government to ensure that students don't lag behind in their studies during the pandemic.

A comprehensive initiative called PM eVIDYA has been initiated which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes:

- Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in states/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (one nation, one digital platform)
- One earmarked Swayam Prabha TV channel per class from 1 to 12 (one class, one channel)
- Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Podcast- Shiksha Vani
- Special e-content, for visually and hearing impaired, developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) website/ YouTube

Various digital initiatives are being undertaken by Ministry of Education viz. Study Webs of Active–Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), SWAYAM Prabha, National Digital Library (NDL), Virtual Lab, e-Yantra, Free Open-Source Software for Education (FOSSEE), etc. to ensure quality education to the students. Quality Online courses are provided through SWAYAM which is an indigenously developed MOOCs (Massive Open Online Course) platform.

The Ministry of Education has also launched Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT), a major and unique initiative of online professional development for higher education faculty using the MOOCs platform SWAYAM.

In order to promote the online education, University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified necessary regulation, which facilitates the Universities to offer full-fledged Online Program. Further, Online courses in a programme as per provisions of UGC SWAYAM and Open Distance Learning (ODL) Regulations, has been enhanced up to maximum 40 per cent from 20 per cent.

The initiatives taken by the Government for school education are available in public domain. Link of the same is

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