

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 926
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26thJULY, 2021

Internet Facility for Students

926. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to provide free of cost internet facility for online education to economically backward students in the country, especially in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether any discussion was held by the union Government with State Governments in this matter;
- (c) whether the Government has considered granting financial assistance to the State Governments for the digital education for students from below poverty line households in the country, especially Kerala state; and,
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government received any request from State Government of Kerala for provision for financial assistance to enable digital education in the prevailing pandemic situation; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and response the Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) and (b) Under the BharatNet programme, the CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd (CSC-SPV) of MeitY has been assigned the task of providing Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connectivity to Gram Panchayats including connectivity to the Government Institutions, including schools. This project is for providing Internet connection to Government schools in respective Gram Panchayat. The School Education Departments of the respective State Governments have appointed State/District-wise Nodal Officers for this project for effective implementation. About 63,100 Schools have been provided FTTH connections through BharatNet so far.

There is no such estimate approved under Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B), 2021-22 for Kerala under Samagra Shiksha scheme by Project Approval Board (PAB).

(c) to (f) 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. During 2021-22, an outlay of Rs. 276.0 lakh has been estimated under ICT and Digital Initiatives to the State of Kerala for establishment of smart classrooms in 115 schools.
