

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 951

TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th JULY, 2021

Digital Infrastructure in Education Policy

951. SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposed New Education Policy NEP-2020 aims to create a robust digital infrastructure in the education sector targetting uninterrupted learning process even during unprecedented circumstances and if so, the details thereof ;

(b) whether the legal complexities surrounding the applicability of two operative policies namely, the Right of Children Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and the New Education Policy, 2020 have not been solved yet therefor and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether starting of English and Hindi from class six is one of the major reason of present school dropout therefor; and

(d) if so, the comprehensive action plan therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION

(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) NEP has Chapter 23 on TECHNOLOGY USE AND INTEGRATION and Chapter 24 on ONLINE AND DIGITAL EDUCATION, where details of all policy initiatives and action points are given.

The highlights are:

- An autonomous body, the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) to be created (Para 23.3).
- E-content will continue to be developed by all States in all regional languages, as well as by the NCERT, CIET, CBSE, NIOS, and other bodies/institutions, and will be uploaded onto the DIKSHA platform (Para 23.6).

- CIET will be strengthened to promote and expand DIKSHA as well as other education technology initiatives. (Para 23.6).
- Pilot studies for online education.
- Apart from these other initiatives in paras 24.4 & 24.5 have been mentioned.

(b) NEP 2020 took into consideration the previous policies and The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education, 2009 and is built on the foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability. The policy is synchronized with the basic objective of RTE Act which is to provide free and compulsory elementary education and is also aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and holistic development of learners.

(c) and (d) As per the Report of National Statistical Survey (NSS) 75th Round, the reasons for not attending or dropping out of school, inter-alia, include poverty/economic reasons, child not interested in studies, children engaged in domestic activities or in economic activities.

This Department has developed an online module for compiling the data of Out of School Children (OoSC) identified by each State/UT and their mapping with Special Training Centres (STC) on the PRABANDH Portal (<http://samagrashiksha.in>). Financial assistance at Rs. 2000 per child is provided under Samagra Shiksha for bridge course and mainstreaming of out of school children through NIOS/SIOS. Also, Bridge Course Modules have been developed by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for bridging the learning gaps of Out of School Children studying in Special Training Centers (STC) under the provision of RTE Act, 2009.
