

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1233
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2021

Learning Methods for Students with and without Digital Devices

1233. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of students have increased in the Government schools during the pandemic;
- (b) if so, then by what magnitude and the reasons for increased enrolments in the Government schools;
- (c) whether the Ministry or any body under its administrative control has done any conscious effort to gauge the learning levels in students with access and without access to smartphones keeping in view that there were separate learning resources for the students who did not have access to smartphone during the pandemic,
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, who is responsible in this regard?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (d): The Department of School Education and Literacy has launched an Integrated Centrally Sponsored Scheme for School Education - Samagra Shiksha with effect from 2018-19 which envisages school education as a continuum from pre-school to senior secondary level and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for undertaking various activities to increase enrolment at all levels and to reduce number of Out of School Children (OoSC). Also, mid-day meal is provided to students at the elementary level of education.

Further, Section 10 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 states that it shall be the duty of every parent or guardian to admit or cause to be admitted his or her child or ward, as the case may be, for elementary education in the neighbourhood school.

During the pandemic, the Ministry of Education has taken various steps for providing continued access to education, which are available to each category of students irrespective of their region or economic standard. A comprehensive initiative called PM e-Vidya has been started which aims to unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes all forms of digital modes to provide wide access- DIKSHA (online), SWAYAM (online), SWAYAM PRABHA (TV), other TV Channels including use of Doordarshan and AIR Networks. Further, an Alternate Academic Calendar has been prepared for learning solutions for grade 1 to 12 for both children with and without device. Also, PRAGYATA guidelines were issued to States/UTs to facilitate continued education through various modes. The guidelines inter-alia include situation where internet connectivity is not available or available with very less bandwidth, resources are shared through various platforms like television, radio etc that do not depend on internet.

A sample based National Achievement Survey across the country has been conducted on 12th November 2021 for Grade 3, 5, 8 and 10 students of State Government schools, Government Aided schools, Private Unaided recognized schools and Central Government schools for assessing the achievement of learning outcomes of the students.
