

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1294
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06th DECEMBER, 2021**

Expansion of Education Programmes

+1294. SHRI BALAK NATH:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes, schemes and projects being implemented for the expansion of integrated education in the country including Rajasthan especially in the rural areas; and

(b) the total budget allocated for the expansion of basic infrastructure of education such as Smart Board Online Education App. and for the improvement in the quality of teachers in the schools in the rural areas for the year 2021-2022?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) : Samagra Shiksha, an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII, is running in the country including the rural areas in the State of Rajasthan since 2018-19. The vision of the scheme is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for Education and vision of National Education Policy 2020. Under Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to all States and UTs for implementation of various interventions like opening / strengthening of schools, provision of free textbooks and uniforms, setting up and running of residential schools and hostels including Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Awasiya Vidyalaya, provisions for inclusive education of Children with Special Needs (CWSN), transport & escort facility, in-service training of teachers, sports and physical education, vocational education and other activities.

(b) : Under Samagra Shiksha financial assistance is provided to States/ UTs including rural areas inter-alia for various ICT and Digital initiatives for setting up of ICT labs, smart classrooms including support for digital boards etc. An amount of Rs. 95683.24 lakh for smart class rooms and an amount of Rs.100379.96 lakh for ICT labs have been approved under ICT and Digital Initiatives in 2021-22.

The Department of School Education and Literacy has launched an initiative to improve learning outcomes at the Elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme called NISHTHA – National Initiative for School Heads’ and Teachers’ Holistic Advancement under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha in August, 2019. The aim of this training is to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students, handle diverse situations and act as first level counsellors. Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic and in order to provide continuous learning opportunities to the teachers at the elementary level, this Department has launched NISHTHA online using DIKSHA platform in October 2020 to reach out to elementary teachers and its further extension to all as well. For 2021-22, a total fund of Rs. 39039.26 lakh was approved for NISHTHA for Foundational years and Secondary and Senior secondary level teachers.
