

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 49  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021**

**Education Programmes**

**†49. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BHABHOR:**

**SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the programmes, plans and projects being run for the expansion of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan in the country including Gujarat and Rajasthan, especially in the rural and tribal areas of Gujarat;
- (b) the total budget allocated for the expansion of education infrastructure such as Smart Board, on-line education app in the tribal and rural areas of Gujarat and programmes for quality improvement of the teachers in rural schools in the year 2021-22; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to develop the medium of online education for the students of all Government schools?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): Samagra Shiksha, an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 12, is running in the country including the rural and tribal areas in the State of Gujarat and in 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, ICT, vocational education and other activities.

In Gujarat, **4372** schools were approved for the year 2021-22 with an outlay **Rs. 109.59 crore** under virtual / smart classroom, out of which **Rs 14.29 crore** is for **548** schools in tribal areas and **Rs 13.54 crore** for **522** schools in rural areas. An outlay of **Rs. 36.74 crore** was approved for the Teacher Education component which includes support for Teacher Educators salary, DIKSHA, Programmes & Activities and Capacity Building (SCERT & DIETs), Technology Support to Teacher Education Institutes (TEIs) and Annual Grant to TEIs for meeting day-to-day expenses, hiring of resource persons/experts for teacher training, purchase of library books, stationary, periodicals, office and library equipment and office expenses etc.

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. NISHTHA online on DIKSHA platform covers 18 courses in 11 languages. Teachers are oriented on various aspects related to Learning Outcomes, Competency Based Learning and Testing, Learner-centered Pedagogy, School Safety and Security, Personal-social qualities, Inclusive Education, ICT in teaching-learning including Artificial Intelligence, Health and well-being including yoga, new Initiatives in School Education including library, eco club, youth club, kitchen garden, School Leadership qualities, Environmental Concerns, Pre-school, Prevocational Education and School Based Assessment in a joyful learning manner.

In the State of Gujarat under Samagra Shiksha in 2021-22, an amount of Rs.1164.25 lakh was approved for capacity building of 116425 Teachers of Grades I to V, to be covered under NISHTHA 3.0 for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy. Further, an amount of Rs.487.90 lakh was approved for 48790 teachers of all the Government and Government-Aided schools at Secondary and Senior Secondary level under NISHTHA 2.0 for Training of in-service Teachers and Head Teachers.

A comprehensive initiative called **PM eVIDYA** has been initiated as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan on 17th May, 2020, which unifies all efforts related to digital / online / on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes:

- DIKSHA (one nation, one digital platform) - the nation’s digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in States/UTs. QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades are available on it.
- One earmarked Swayam Prabha TV channel per class for classes from 1 to 12 (one class, one channel).
- Extensive use of Radio, Community Radio and CBSE Podcast- Shiksha Vani.
- Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website / YouTube.

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