

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *70
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7th FEBRUARY, 2022**

Online Education for Under Privileged and Rural Students

*70. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to make online education more accessible to under-privileged and rural students and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is planning to provide low-cost devices (smartphones, tablets, laptops, etc.) and internet access to students, enabling the less privileged students to cope with the demands of online education;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding loss of education among children with no access to internet and low-cost devices; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

Part (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 70 ASKED BY SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM, HON'BLE
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING ONLINE EDUCATION FOR UNDER
PRIVILEGED AND RURAL STUDENTS.**

(a) To facilitate the online learning by all students a comprehensive initiative called PM eVIDYA has been initiated as part of AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan on 17th May, 2020, which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multimode access to education. The initiative includes:

- DIKSHA (one nation, one digital platform) is the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in States/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades are available on it.
- One earmarked Swayam Prabha TV channel per class 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.

All these schemes/programmes are available in the public domain to all the students across the nation.

(b) & (c) ICT and Digital Initiatives component of Samagra Shiksha covering Government and Government Aided Schools having classes VI to XII provides financial assistance for establishing ICT Lab and Smart Classrooms in schools. The non-recurring/recurring grant under 'ICT and Digital Initiatives' for schools is available to the States and UTs for following two options:

In first option, schools which have not availed the ICT facility earlier can either opt for ICT or smart classrooms. The component support digital boards, smart classrooms, virtual classrooms and DTH channels on pro-rata basis for number of schools approved. The financial assistance include, a non-recurring grant of up to Rs. 6.40 lakh per school and recurring grant of upto Rs. 2.40 lakh per school per annum for a period of 5 years.

In the second option, schools which have already availed the ICT facility earlier can avail smart classrooms/tablets as per the norms of the scheme.

The non-recurring grant for Smart Class rooms (Maximum 2 smart classrooms per school) is of Rs. 2.40 lakh and the recurring grant is Rs. 0.38 lakh (including E Content and Digital Resources, Charges for Electricity. The state may also use Solar Power-Hybrid solar instead, to ensure Sustainability and Internet connectivity (Tele communications/ satellite communication/ OFC).

An amount of Rs. 2469.68 Lakh is also recommended for 9192 schools of Sikkim, Ladakh, J&K, MP and Arunachal Pradesh based on the proposal received under Innovation, for providing Tablet in schools as Digital Library.

Approval of Tablets in Schools as Digital Library

State/ UT	No. of Schools	Amount Approved (Rs in lakh)
Arunachal Pradesh	40	120.00
J&K	377	30.16
Ladakh	839	444.00
MP	7874	1689.52
Sikkim	62	186.00
Total	9192	2469.68

(d) & (e) Education being in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools, colleges and university are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. The Central Government is constantly advising States/UTs through guidelines and meeting with respect to interventions for reducing impact of pandemic on education. The guidelines issued so far are as follows:

- Guidelines For Children of Migrant Labourers:
https://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/Migrant%20labour%20guideline.pdf
- Guidelines For Out of School Children and Mitigation of Loss of Learning:
https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/guidelines_oosc.pdf.
- PRAGYATA Guidelines on Digital Education:
https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/pragyata-guidelines_0.pdf
- Learning Enhancement Guidelines for Continuous Learning:
https://ncert.nic.in/pdf/announcement/Learning_%20Enhancement_Guidelines.pdf
