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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2039
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.03.2022

Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)

2039.   SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that only 8% of children in rural areas studied online regularly as per the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2021;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to identify the number of students with limited accessibility to digital devices; and

(c)   the steps taken by the Government to ensure the attendance of students in interactive, live classes rather than using various platforms like television and radio?

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

(a): Achievement survey released in the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is conducted by a non-governmental organization.

(b) & (c): Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. However, in order to ensure that every student of the country gets continued access to education, a multi-pronged approach has been adopted. Regarding school education, 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 multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes:

- DIKSHA the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in states/UTs: and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (one nation, one digital platform)

- 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

Further, an Alternate Academic Calendar has been prepared for providing learning solutions for grade 1 to 12 and 'Students' Learning Enhancement Guidelines' prepared by NCERT suggest models for the following three types of scenarios to ensure that no child is deprived of reach of education:

a) Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students without digital devices;

b) Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students with limited accessibility to digital devices &

c) Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students with digital devices.

Also, PRAGYATA guidelines issued to States/UTs to facilitate continued education through various modes. The guidelines inter-alia includes situations where internet connectivity is not available or available with very less bandwidth where resources are shared through various platforms like television, radio etc that do not depend on internet.

Where the digital facility (mobile device/ DTH television) is not available, Ministry of Education has taken many initiatives like Community Radio Stations and a podcast called Shiksha Vani of CBSE, Textbooks, worksheet supplied to residence of learners, Handbook on 21st Century Skills and community/mohalla classes are organized. Innovation Funds of the Department are used to set up mobile school, virtual studios, virtual class rooms in schools, Continuous Learning Plan (CLP) for States/UTs has been initiated in all States/UTs, pre-loaded tablets in various states and UTs are effectively used in remote/rural areas where online classes are difficult.

Under the BharatNet programme, the CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd (CSC-SPV) of MeitY has been assigned the task of providing Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connectivity to the Government Institutions, including schools.

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