LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2978
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2022

Internet Access to Students in Maharashtra

†2978.   SHRI VINAYAK RAUT:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has decided to provide free internet access for online education to students of the country especially to economically backward students of Maharashtra;

(b)   if so, the details thereof and whether any discussion has been held by the Union Government with State Governments in this regard;

(c)   whether the Government have contemplated to provide financial assistance to the State Governments to impart digital education to students of the country especially to the student living below the poverty line in the State of Maharashtra;

(d)   if so, the details thereof;

(e)   whether the Government have received any request for financial assistance provision from any State Government to impart digital education in the wake of existing pandemic; and

(f)   if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(a) & (b):   As per UDISE+ 2019-20, State/UT-wise number and percentage of schools with Internet connection/ facilities, including Maharashtra are at **Annexure-I**.

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.

(c) to (f):   School Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and the state governments have been advised to act based on the situation prevailing at every place to meet the demands of all students for ensuring continuity of education in the wake of the pandemic.

Under the Integrated Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, funds are provided to the States & UTs for setting up ICT labs and Smart Classrooms in schools, as per appraisal of the proposals received from the States/UTs in their Annual Work Plan, as per norms of the scheme. State/UT-wise approval of ICT and Smart Classrooms under Samagra Shiksha are at **Annexure-II**.

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.

Where the digital facility (mobile device/DTH television) is not available, Ministry of Education has taken 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. Innovation Funds under Samagra Shiksha are used to set up mobile school, virtual studios, virtual class rooms in schools, Continuous Learning Plan (CLP) for States/UTs, pre-loaded tablets in various States and UTs in remote rural areas where online classes are difficult.

Further, an Alternate Academic Calendar has been prepared for learning solutions including self-assessment for grade 1 to 12 for both children with and without device. Bridge Course Modules have also been developed for bridging the learning gaps of Out of School Children studying in special training centres (STC) under the provisions of RTE Act, 2009. Also, PRAGYATA guidelines were issued to the 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. Similarly, Students Learning Enhancement Guidelines were released to support learning of children during COVID-19. Guidelines for development of e-content for children with special needs have been released. Guidelines for parent participation in Home-based learning during school closure and beyond have also been released.

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ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) AND (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2978 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2022 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI VINAYAK RAUT REGARDING INTERNET ACCESS TO STUDENTS IN MAHARASHTRA

Statement showing State/UT-wise, number and percentage of schools, with Internet connection/ facilities

Sl. No.	State/ UT	No. of Schools with Internet Connection	Percentage of Schools with Internet Connection
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	113	27.03
2.	Andhra Pradesh	14514	22.74
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	307	8.37
4.	Assam	3836	5.82
5.	Bihar	7671	8.50
6.	Chandigarh	223	97.38
7.	Chhattisgarh	4891	8.69
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	86	24.86
9.	Daman & Diu	102	74.45
10.	Delhi	4858	85.69
11.	Goa	575	38.80
12.	Gujarat	38658	70.76
13.	Haryana	10172	42.92
14.	Himachal Pradesh	4146	22.80
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	3460	11.99
16.	Jharkhand	15001	32.90
17.	Karnataka	19020	24.65
18.	Kerala	14638	87.84
19.	Ladakh	57	5.41
20.	Lakshadweep	42	93.33
21.	Madhya Pradesh	18805	14.10
22.	Maharashtra	39014	35.39
23.	Manipur	719	15.42
24.	Meghalaya	572	3.88
25.	Mizoram	282	7.19
26.	Nagaland	434	15.74
27.	Odisha	4328	6.46
28.	Puducherry	484	65.32
29.	Punjab	14087	48.96
30.	Rajasthan	38561	36.30
31.	Sikkim	247	19.34
32.	Tamil Nadu	18819	31.95
33.	Telangana	8859	20.81
34.	Tripura	190	3.85
35.	Uttar Pradesh	34638	13.62
36.	Uttarakhand	3883	16.67
37.	West Bengal	9590	10.02
	Total	**335882**	**22.28**

Source: UDISE+ 2019-20

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2978 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2022 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI VINAYAK RAUT REGARDING INTERNET ACCESS TO STUDENTS IN MAHARASHTRA

Statement showing State/UT-wise Approval and Expenditure of ICT and Smart Classrooms under Samagra Shiksha

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No	State/UT	Approval					
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21		2021-22	
		ICT Lab	ICT Lab	ICT Lab	Smart Class room*	ICT Lab	Smart Class room*
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4.7	0.7	2.7	4.1	3.0	0.0
2	Andhra Pradesh	30.0	48.5	33.1	0.0	59.3	26.9
3	Arunachal Pradesh	2.3	2.1	4.4	0.0	5.6	0.0
4	Assam	18.1	40.5	71.0	0.0	155.0	87.4
5	Bihar	46.2	30.8	11.9	0.0	0.0	65.7
6	Chandigarh	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.0	0.3	2.1
7	Chhattisgarh	24.2	0.0	1.0	63.0	13.8	70.9
8	Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.4	0.0	0.9	0.0	2.2	2.0
9	Delhi	1.4	0.0	10.0	0.9	0.0	21.5
10	Goa	0.0	14.8	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0
11	Gujarat	0.3	0.0	0.0	43.5	0.0	104.0
12	Haryana	32.0	22.8	0.0	36.5	18.3	29.0
13	Himachal Pradesh	59.3	0.0	55.6	0.0	35.7	39.2
14	Jammu & Kashmir	49.1	45.3	26.1	0.0	51.8	12.4
15	Jharkhand	51.0	24.4	73.1	0.0	79.1	12.5
16	Karnataka	15.1	50.8	76.2	0.0	63.7	0.0
17	Kerala	47.6	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8
18	Ladakh	0.0	0.0	4.4	0.0	2.1	0.5
19	Lakshadweep	1.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.2
20	Madhya Pradesh	9.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.2	16.8
21	Maharashtra	110.7	154.9	35.0	0.0	0.0	21.3
22	Manipur	7.8	12.3	15.6	0.0	10.0	7.4
23	Meghalaya	0.0	2.8	12.4	0.0	5.7	0.0
24	Mizoram	0.9	0.0	3.3	0.0	0.8	4.8
25	Nagaland	0.9	0.5	0.0	11.4	0.0	2.7
26	Odisha	233.0	98.8	120.2	9.2	43.4	107.3
27	Puducherry	4.8	2.5	3.4	0.0	1.1	2.4
28	Punjab	6.6	0.0	12.5	0.0	37.5	68.9
29	Rajasthan	69.1	36.4	42.5	39.9	38.1	66.1
30	Sikkim	6.7	4.1	3.6	0.0	8.9	5.7
31	Tamil Nadu	0.0	104.3	54.3	0.0	149.9	20.8
32	Telangana	52.7	40.5	13.5	0.0	39.1	72.2
33	Tripura	0.0	5.7	4.5	0.0	22.8	6.0
34	Uttar Pradesh	37.4	1.1	0.0	50.4	0.0	13.0
35	Uttarakhand	0.0	1.3	12.0	27.4	34.6	17.0
36	West Bengal	0.0	0.0	8.0	0.0	93.3	47.2
	Total	**924.2**	**759.1**	**712.6**	**286.2**	**1003.8**	**956.8**

Source: PRABANDH
*Provision for Smart Classrooms introduced in Samagra Shiksha in 2020-21.