GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2086
ANSWERED ON 09/12/2024

Vidya Samiksha Kendra

2086. Prof. Varsha Eknath Gaikwad:
Shri Nilesh Dnyandev Lanke:
Shri Amar Sharadrao Kale:
Shri Sanjay Dina Patil:
Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe:
Smt. Supriya Sule:
Shri Bhaskar Murlidhar Bhagare:
Shri Bajrang Manohar Sonwane:
Shri Mohite Patil Dhairyasheel Rajsinh:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has established Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) in all the States of the country, especially in Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof;
(b) the objectives of setting up these Kendras;
(c) whether there has been any measurable impact of the VSK in improving student learning outcomes in those States where it has been implemented, if so, the details thereof;
(d) the details of mechanisms placed under the VSK to ensure the accuracy and timeliness of the data being collected;
(e) the manner in which the Government ensure that real-time data on school attendance, teacher performance and student learning outcomes is effectively utilized by the Government;
(f) the details of current allocation of funds for setting up of VSK in different States; and
(g) whether there are any plans of the Government to enhance digital infrastructure especially in rural and remote areas to support the effective functioning of VSK?

<div align="center">ANSWER</div>

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(Shri Jayant Chaudhary)

(a) to (g)   National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has set an aspirational goal to ensure universal access and provide opportunity to all children of the country to obtain quality holistic education–including vocational education - from pre-school to Grade 12. NEP 2020 in Para 24.4 (b) also highlights the need for developing a Digital Infrastructure for Education Sector. Union Budget 2021-22 laid emphasis on strengthening country's digital infrastructure for education by announcing setting up of a National Digital Educational Architecture (NDEAR). On July 29, 2021, Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji launched the National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) to create a unified digital infrastructure for education in India. NDEAR is a blueprint for the country's educational ecosystem that includes principles, standards, guidelines, and policies to strengthen digital education infrastructure.

To systematically track the objectives of NEP and underlying interventions at both macro and micro level, NDEAR compliant Vidya Samiksha Kendras (VSK) has been launched by the Ministry of Education, Department of School Education and Literacy, Government of India. Since, VSKs operate under the framework of NDEAR, it ensures interoperability and alignment with broader national education goals. Such

approach allows seamless data sharing between different platforms and entities thereby ensuring accuracy and timeliness of data for coordinated efforts.

VSK's has been developed with strategies designed to enhance the effectiveness of monitoring of educational initiatives and their eventual outcomes. A key feature of VSK is tracking of drop out students, monitoring of students migrating from one school to the other, progress of learning outcomes and real-time monitoring of various interventions, aimed at improving access, students' academic performance and enhancing teachers' accountability in schools. The overall architecture of VSK inter-alia helps to monitor Attendance of students and teachers, Assessment of students, Accreditation of schools, Adaptive Learning for students, Administration of schools under different management types. VSK's helps in data analysis of scheme for better implementation and outcomes.

To provide a holistic view of the key education indicators at National level, Rashtriya Vidya Samiksha Kendra (RVSK) was launched on 9th March, 2024 by Hon'ble Union Education Minister at NCERT.

The Rashtriya Vidya Samiksha Kendra (RVSK) at NCERT is being developed in a federated architecture to link with all the VSK of States/UTs and provide a bird's eye view of the country's educational landscape. RVSK further helps in collating, analyzing and triangulating the school education data emanating from respective State/UT VSKs which helps the decision making at appropriate level.

Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) provides an effective monitoring mechanism for analyzing learning outcomes across different national programs and planning interventions or initiatives and taking various decisions to improve learning outcomes. Multiple initiatives like the NIPUN Bharat Mission, launched in July 2021 to ensure foundational literacy and numeracy and the National Achievement Survey (NAS), State Educational Achievement Survey (SEAS) and Foundational Learning Study and other programs designed to assess student learning outcomes can be monitored through the VSK. VSKs have been recent made operational in different States/UTs and are being utilized to analyze school-wise/student-wise wise teacher vacancy, planning remedial sessions, analysis of periodical assessment tests across various States/UT.

To ensure real-time data on various parameters, various national portals such as UDISE+ as well as portals/applications - such as Artificial Intelligence, Chatbot, Mobile Applications with features like time stamping, geo fencing and tagging, facial recognition and web based portals are deployed at school level for collecting data for online attendance, periodic assessment tests (PAT) and other aspects of education management.

Government of India had provided funds up-to Rs 108 Crore through Samagra Shiksha Scheme to States/UTs to set up Vidya Samiksha Kendra in the year 2022-23. 31 VSKs are already operational in States/UTs. The Vidya Samiksha Kendra at Pune, Maharashtra was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 9th October 2024 through a Video Conference.

To enhance the digital infrastructure that can be linked to the Vidya Samiksha Kendra in all parts of the country, 'ICT and Digital initiatives' component of centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha is utilized by the States/UTs. These components covers Government and Government Aided schools having classes VI to XII, subject to the availability of budgetary provision. Financial assistance is provided under the Options of "ICT Lab" and "Smart Classrooms in schools". The norms of the scheme include support for procurement of both recurring and non-recurring components such as digital boards, smart classrooms, virtual classrooms, Operating System & Application Software, Internet connectivity, training of teachers etc. However, since education in the concurrent list, States/UT may provide additional funds and develop more Digital Infrastructure as per their requirement.

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