

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 44
ANSWERED ON 03/02/2025
Digital Education Schemes under NEP 2020

44 **Shri Varun Chaudhry:**

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure 100% digital readiness in schools by 2025 as per New Education Policy (NEP) 2020;
- (b) the details of budgetary allocations and utilization under digital education schemes during the last three years; and
- (c) whether any audit has been conducted to identify infrastructure gaps and the timeline for addressing these deficiencies, particularly in rural areas ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(Shri Jayant Chaudhary)

(a) to (c) : The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 outlines a transformative roadmap for India's education system, built on five guiding pillars: Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability. These principles aim to create an educational ecosystem where every learner, regardless of socio-economic status or geographical location, has equal opportunities to receive high-quality and inclusive education. Aligned with these foundational goals, the PM eVidya initiative emerges as a cornerstone program designed to bridge educational gaps and promote equitable access. By unifying digital, online, and on-air educational resources, PM eVidya ensures quality learning opportunities for over 25 crore school-going children across the country. Through its inclusive and learner-centered approach, the initiative serves as a powerful instrument for achieving the vision of NEP 2020.

PM eVidya adopts a multi-modal approach that caters to diverse learning styles and meets the varied educational needs of students, in line with NEP 2020's vision of a learner-centric educational framework (para 24.4, NEP 2020). The uniqueness of PM eVidya lies in its comprehensive and inclusive accessibility, offering education through internet, radio, community radio, podcasts, and TV to ensure that no learner is left behind. **DIKSHA** (One Nation - One Digital Platform) serves as a centralized digital repository, offering a wide range of educational resources aligned with the curriculum. The program also leverages **200**

DTH TV Channels, dedicated to grade-specific learning, making educational content widely accessible via satellite TV. **SWAYAM MOOCs** offers Massive Open Online Courses, enabling deeper academic engagement and expanding learning opportunities for students. To support inclusivity, PM eVidya provides **e-content for Divyang** students in formats like DAISY for visually impaired learners and Indian Sign Language for hearing-impaired students. **Community Radio and Podcasts** play a vital role by delivering audio-based educational content, particularly targeting rural and remote areas, ensuring access to learning without the need for the internet.

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) also integrates digital learning into its curriculum by offering courses such as, Data Entry Operations at the Secondary level, and Computer Science at the Senior Secondary level to enhance digital competencies. It has developed Energized Self Learning Materials (SLMs) that incorporate multimedia resources via QR codes in both printed and digital formats, ensuring accessibility and engagement. NIOS has also adopted digital certification through DigiLocker for secure and verifiable credentialing. It's Digital Education and E-Resources Platform (DEEP) provides open access to a diverse range of educational materials, including e- journals, e-books, and reference materials in multiple languages, supporting learners across socio-economic backgrounds.

The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education is implementing Samagra Shiksha from 2018-19 across the entire country. The scheme has been aligned with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. It aims to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which should take care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in a continuous learning process. Under Samagra Shiksha, States/UTs are supported for strengthening of school infrastructure.

ICT and Digital Initiatives component of Samagra Shiksha covers Government and Aided Schools having classes VI to XII. Under this component financial assistance is provided for establishing ICT Lab and Smart Classrooms in schools. The non- recurring/recurring grant under 'ICT and Digital Initiatives' is available to the States and UTs for following two options:

Option I: Under this option schools which have not availed the ICT facility earlier can either opt for ICT or smart classrooms as per their requirement and need. In case of more than 700 enrolment, an additional ICT lab can also be considered. States/UTs have flexibility to procure hardware such as tablets/ laptops/notebooks/ integrated teaching learning devices and open-source operating system as well as Hardware, Software, training and resource support. This would include support for digital boards, smart classrooms, virtual classrooms and DTH channels on pro-rata basis for number of schools approved.

Option II: Under this option schools which have already availed the ICT facility earlier can avail smart classrooms/tablets as per the norms of the scheme.

Financial provisions:

- **ICT Lab:** 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.

From 2023-24, the scheme also offers step-wise funding based on school enrolment. (Strength < 100 : Rs. 2.5 Lakhs, Strength between 100 – 250 : Rs. 4.5 Lakhs, Strength between 250 – 700 : Rs. 6.4 Lakhs)

- **Smart Classrooms:** The non-recurring grant for Smart Class rooms (2 smart classrooms per school) is of Rs. 2.40 lakh and the recurring grant is Rs. 38,000/- (including e-content and Digital Resources, Charges for Electricity).

The details of funds allocated and utilized (including the amount released in previous years) under ICT and Smart Classroom component during last 3 years is as follows:

Year	ICT Labs (Rs. in Lakh)		Smart Classrooms (Rs. in Lakh)	
	Allocation	Utilization	Allocation	Utilization
2021-22	68456.0	26768.8	91092.7	15852.07
2022-23	41824.0	71209.7	73823.2	66276.64
2023-24	55904.4	78672.6	53729.7	36947.14

The details of funds allocated to NCERT by MoE and utilized under Digital Education component during last 3 years is as follows:

Year	PAB projects funded by DoSEL, MoE through NCERT (Rs. in Lakh)	
	Allocation	Utilization
2021-22	12390.0	7985.0
2022-23	51093.0	29680.0
2023-24	36605.0	36605.0

The audit of Samagra Shiksha is an ongoing process. The Department of School Education and literacy has developed a robust MIS portal i.e., PRABANDH for tracking, monitoring of both physical and financial progress and audit of the various components of Samagra Shiksha including Smart Class rooms of the States/UTs in rural and urban areas.
