GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5279
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 02.04.2025

INCREASE IN DIGITAL LITERACY

5279. SMT. RACHNA BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Government's plan to increase digital literacy among students particularly in rural and underprivileged areas where internet connectivity is a challenge;
(b) the manner in which the Government is addressing the digital divide ensuring that all students regardless of their socio-economic background have equal access to online learning resources;
(c) the steps being taken by the Government to provide remote learning solutions for students during emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the manner in which such models are likely to be made more sustainable;
(d) the manner in which the Government is promoting the use of ed-tech companies and platforms in schools to supplement traditional teaching methods; and
(e) the policies put in place to safeguard students privacy and data security in growing use of digital learning tools and platforms in schools?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (b): The Government of India has initiated several schemes/ programmes to promote digital literacy among the citizens from all States/UTs including rural India namely:

i. **National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM)** - 10,38,851 were trained during the period 2014-2016.
ii. **Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA)**- 77,70,005 (one person from every eligible household) that included field level government functionaries namely Anganwadi and ASHA workers and authorized ration dealers were trained during the period 2014-2016.
iii. **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)** - 6.39 crore citizens (one person per household) were trained during 2017-2024. The scheme has concluded on 31.03.2024.
iv. **National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT)**, is providing training on digital literacy courses such as Awareness in Computer Concept (ACC), Basic Computer Course (BCC), Course on Computer Concepts (CCC) and Expert Computer Course (ECC) etc.

(c) to (d): The various remote learning solutions/models and teaching methods including the use of ed-tech companies and platforms in schools to supplement traditional teaching methods initiated are:

i. A comprehensive initiative called PM eVidyawas initiated as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan in May 2020 to enable multi-mode access to education across the country. The PM eVidya initiative is implemented with the support of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). The key components of PM eVidya are also aligned towards enhancing digital literacy and include:

   - DTH TV Channels: 12 DTH Channels have been expanded to 200 PM eVidya DTH TV Channels to enable all States/UTs to provide supplementary education in various Indian languages, including for classes 1-12. One hour of content on Digital Literacy is broadcast by NCERT daily on DTH Channels and YouTube to enhance the digital literacy of students and teachers in rural areas.
   - Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing **(**DIKSHA), the nation's digital infrastructure, is providing quality e-content for school education in States/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (One Nation, One Digital platform).Overall,560.09 crore learning sessions have been completed on DIKSHA by students, teachers, and other stakeholders. Further, the courses on Computer Sciences on the DIKSHA platform for Class XI and Class XII include Digital Literacy components. To promote crucial critical thinking skills and to give space for creativity, a vertical on Virtual Labs has been created on the DIKSHA platform. The Ed-Tech companies can leverage the DIKSHA Platform and share their content through the Vidyadaan feature.

ii. OLabs NextG (OLabs Next Generation): "OLabs NextG: Next Generation Online Labs (OLabs) for schools," is being implemented by CDAC, Mumbai for access to 173 labs Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Maths and are available in regional languages Hindi, Marathi, Malayalam, etc.
iii. FutureSkills Prime- MeitY has initiated a programme titled "FutureSkills PRIME" in 2019, jointly with National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), aimed at re-skilling/ up-skilling candidates in new/emerging technologies.
iv. YUVAi- Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI: "YUVAi: Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI"- A National Programme for School Students with the objective of enabling school students from classes $8^{th}$to $12^{th}$with AI tech and social skills in an inclusive manner. The programme provides a platform for youth to learn and apply AI skills in 8 thematic areas- Krishi, Aarogya, Shiksha, Paryavaran, Parivahan, Grameen Vikas, Smart Cities, and Vidhi aur Nyaay.
v. NIELIT offers online training through the NIELIT Virtual Academy that provide flexibility and accessibility, allowing learners to study at their own pace from any location and thus extend an equitable environment, ensuring inclusive access to quality education for learners from diverse backgrounds.

(e): The Ministry of Education, through NCERT, has developed the PRAGYATA Guidelines, which were published by the Government of India on 14th July 2020. The PRAGYATA Guidelines recommend parents to actively engage with their children and monitor their physical & mental well-being, watching for signs of anxiety, depression, or anger during digital learning and being attentive to secretive online behavior. Open communication about internet use, instruction on hygiene/healthy lifestyle practices (using digital resources), and a balance of online time with offline play and physical activities are essential. Additionally, NCERT conducts comprehensive workshops and webinars designed to enhance cyber safety knowledge and promote responsible digital awareness among participants.

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