

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 47
ANSWERED ON 01/12/2025

Resources for Digital Education

†47. Shri Babu Singh Kushwaha:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many Government schools in the country still lack the necessary resources for digital education, such as computers, smart classes, internet connections and trained teachers, leaving students deprived of modern education, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has launched any special national scheme to strengthen digital education in schools of rural and backward regions, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to ensure that every Government school is equipped with digital classrooms, e-learning material and technically trained teachers so that all the children can receive uniform quality education; and
- (d) if so, the details of the major steps taken so far by the Government in this direction?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SH. JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d): Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. The State Governments have been advised to act based on the situation prevailing at every place to meet the demands of students and teachers for providing them with the digital access required for teaching learning digitally.

Under Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to States/UTs, including rural and backward regions, inter-alia for setting up of ICT labs and smart classrooms in Government and Government Aided Schools having classes VI to XII. 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.

Till date 1,77,088 ICT Labs and 1,76,728 Smart Classrooms have been sanctioned to State/UT Governments. This includes 3,564 ICT Labs and 3,655 Smart Classrooms

sanctioned to saturate all Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) in 2024-25. This also includes 20,553 ICT Labs and 29,910 Smart Classrooms sanctioned to saturate all functional secondary and senior secondary schools with ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms in 2025-26.

As per UDISE+ 2024-25 data, 5,93,615 Government Schools are equipped with internet connection. Additionally, the Government of India, in the Budget 2025, has announced provision of broadband connectivity to all Government Secondary schools in rural areas, under the 'BharatNet' project to enhance digital infrastructure in remote areas by BSNL in a phased manner.

A comprehensive initiative called PM eVidya was 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 across the country under the aegis of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. States/UTs collaborate with NCERT to utilise, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these initiatives as per their requirements in mother tongue/local/regional languages. PM eVidya includes 200 DTH TV Channels allotted to States/UTs/Autonomous Bodies (ABs)/Other Ministries in Government of India and 400 Radio channels to enable them to provide supplementary education as per their requirement in various Indian languages for classes 1-12.

Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) is the Nation's One Nation, One Digital platform for providing quality e-content for school education in States/UTs along with QR coded Energised Textbooks (ETBs) for all grades. As a participant in DIKSHA, States/UTs/ABs have generated and contributed over 3.7 lakh content in mother tongue/local/regional languages enabling multilingualism. Overall, 565.28 crore learning sessions have been completed on DIKSHA by students, teachers and other stakeholders. The stakeholders have access to more than 450 Virtual Labs and 100 Virtual skill labs (50 each in Hindi and English) on DIKSHA.

Under Samagra Shiksha, teacher capacity building for digital education is being supported through the DIKSHA platform. The Department has also implemented NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) as an integrated teacher training programme on DIKSHA, covering modules on digital pedagogy, use of ICT tools and technology-enabled learning. Further, NCERT, SCERTs, DIETs, BRCs and CRCs undertake development of resource material, digital content, training programmes and workshops to strengthen teachers' preparedness for digital education.
