

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2500**

ANSWERED ON 03/08/2026

**Digital Education in Rural and Deprived Areas**

†2500. Shri Rajesh Ranjan:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that lakhs of students in rural areas of many States including Bihar are deprived of digital education due to unavailability of internet connectivity, smartphones and electricity as a result of which the learning gap between urban and rural students is continuously increasing as a result;
- (b) whether the Government has made any assessment on the availability of smart classrooms, computers and broadband in Government schools in the country, State-wise, if so, the details alongwith the current status thereof;
- (c) whether schemes like PM e-VIDYA and DIKSHA are practically being implemented effectively or are mere paper announcements, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate any concrete time-bound action plan to provide required infrastructure to ensure quality digital education to the students belonging to rural and economically weaker section and to train teachers accordingly, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a): The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 places a strong emphasis on improving school infrastructure to strengthen learning, enable blended modes of instruction and expand digital access across all regions, including the State of Bihar. To bridge the digital gap and ensure continuous learning, significant progress has been made in expanding basic and digital infrastructure across schools. As per UDISE+ 2025-2026 data, the percentage of schools with functional electricity nationwide is 95% and that in the State of Bihar is 99.5%. Similarly, 67.4% of schools nationwide were connected to the internet, while 91% of schools in Bihar are connected with internet.

(b): Details of smart classrooms, computers and internet including broadband in Government schools in the country, State-wise is as annexed as **Annexure**.

(c): A comprehensive initiative called PM eVidya was initiated as part of Atma Nirbhar 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. States/UTs collaborate with NCERT to utilise, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these initiatives as per their requirements. NCERT also provides regular guidance/ feedback to States/UTs on the quality of these initiatives. The PM eVidya initiative includes 200 DTH TV channels and 400 Radio channels to enable all States/UTs to provide supplementary education 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/Autonomous Bodies (ABs) have generated and contributed over 3.67 lakh content in mother tongue/local/regional languages enabling multilingualism. Details of e-content available in regional languages can be accessed at <https://diksha.gov.in/data/>. Overall, 579.41 crore learning sessions for 2.29 crore users have been completed on DIKSHA by students, teachers and other stakeholders. The stakeholders also have access to more than 836 Virtual Labs on DIKSHA that help them with simulation of real-world laboratory environment. The platform supports both online and offline access, enabling learners to download content and continue learning without internet connectivity.

(d): To ensure quality digital education to the students including those belonging to rural and economically weaker section, Ministry of Education implements ICT and Digital initiatives under Samagra Shiksha to enhance the quality of education by integrating modern technology into teaching and learning processes. Under the scheme, funds are provided for setting up ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms in Government and Government Aided Schools having classes VI to XII, according to the requirements of the State submitted in the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B).

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 and rural areas by BSNL in a phased manner.

To improve the overall quality of school education, the Ministry of Education launched a large-scale holistic program, NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement), to enhance the professional competencies of teachers and school leaders. It is implemented across States/UTs through face-to-face, online and blended training modes on the DIKSHA platform.

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## ANNEXURE

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2500 RAISED BY SHRI RAJESH RANJAN HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ANSWERED ON 03.08.2026 REGARDING "DIGITAL EDUCATION IN RURAL AND DEPRIVED AREAS".**

**Number of Government schools State wise with availability of smart classrooms, computer facility and internet facility as per UDISE+ 2025-26**

| State/UT                             | Functional Smart Classrooms | Computer facility | Internet facility |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>India</b>                         | <b>323763</b>               | <b>672778</b>     | <b>634251</b>     |
| Andaman & Nicobar Islands            | 141                         | 297               | 209               |
| Andhra Pradesh                       | 21878                       | 30542             | 43736             |
| Arunachal Pradesh                    | 511                         | 932               | 644               |
| Assam                                | 11788                       | 42067             | 43775             |
| Bihar                                | 8892                        | 28753             | 69807             |
| Chandigarh                           | 116                         | 116               | 116               |
| Chhattisgarh                         | 12267                       | 28855             | 37748             |
| Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 290                         | 353               | 353               |
| Delhi                                | 1940                        | 2687              | 2688              |
| Goa                                  | 113                         | 206               | 771               |
| Gujarat                              | 25025                       | 33842             | 33823             |
| Haryana                              | 6638                        | 14158             | 10857             |
| Himachal Pradesh                     | 8378                        | 12398             | 8973              |
| Jammu & Kashmir                      | 2783                        | 6203              | 8550              |
| Jharkhand                            | 5593                        | 29846             | 20980             |
| Karnataka                            | 10728                       | 21100             | 18007             |
| Kerala                               | 3440                        | 4795              | 4346              |
| Ladakh                               | 356                         | 478               | 395               |
| Lakshadweep                          | 33                          | 34                | 34                |
| Madhya Pradesh                       | 13308                       | 57660             | 33859             |
| Maharashtra                          | 47550                       | 48518             | 44220             |
| Manipur                              | 385                         | 784               | 813               |
| Meghalaya                            | 166                         | 654               | 2041              |
| Mizoram                              | 319                         | 2222              | 1690              |
| Nagaland                             | 627                         | 1775              | 1011              |
| Odisha                               | 16738                       | 41243             | 39693             |
| Puducherry                           | 320                         | 419               | 419               |
| Punjab                               | 17352                       | 19182             | 17339             |
| Rajasthan                            | 17247                       | 29291             | 45544             |

|               |       |        |       |
|---------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Sikkim        | 565   | 767    | 373   |
| Tamil Nadu    | 31321 | 37518  | 37242 |
| Telangana     | 9857  | 25429  | 19452 |
| Tripura       | 1009  | 3042   | 1690  |
| Uttar Pradesh | 37450 | 113784 | 58512 |
| Uttarakhand   | 5791  | 15115  | 10732 |
| West Bengal   | 2848  | 17713  | 13809 |