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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 93
ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024**

Operation Digital Board under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

*93 Shri P V Midhun Reddy:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) an overview of the digital initiatives, particularly 'Operation Digital Board' that have been implemented under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan to enhance the learning experience in schools; and

(b) whether digital initiatives, especially 'Operation Digital Board' contribute to the creation of technology-enabled learning environment in schools and if so, its impact on the overall educational experiences of the students?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION

(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) & (b)   A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 93 FOR 29.07.2024 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SHRI P V MIDHUN REDDY REGARDING OPERATION DIGITAL BOARD UNDER SAMAGRA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

(a) & (b): Operation Digital Board (ODB) was launched on 20th February, 2019 to leverage technology in order to boost quality education in the country. The digital boards were introduced in schools from class 9th onwards with the aim to convert a class room into a digital class room and for availability of e-resources at any time and at any place to students. The ODB as Smart Classroom element was added under Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Component of "Samagra Shiksha" Scheme, which is a centrally sponsored Integrated Scheme for School Education, effective from 2018-19. ODB is now a part of ICT component of Samagra Shiksha. The initiative of ICT and Smart Classrooms in School Education has tremendous potential for enhancing outreach and improving quality of education. ICT and Digital Initiatives component of Samagra Shiksha covers Government and Aided Schools having classes VI to XII.

Under ICT and Smart Classroom component financial assistance is provided for establishing Smart Classrooms using digital boards and ICT labs in schools. The non-recurring/recurring grant under 'ICT and Digital Initiatives' is available to the States and UTs as following two options:

(i) **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.

(ii) **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).

As on 19th July, 2024, total 1,39,181 ICT Labs and 1,26,881 Smart classrooms are sanctioned to States/UTs.

As per the National Education Policy (NEP)- 2020, the thrust of technological interventions are to improve teaching-learning and evaluation processes, remove language barriers, support teacher preparation and professional development, enhance educational access for Divyang and to streamline educational planning, management, and administration including processes related to admissions, attendance, assessments, etc. (NEP 2020, Technology Use and Integration).

To achieve the objectives of NEP 2020, a comprehensive initiative called PM e-VIDYA is in place which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education, with a target to benefit nearly 25 crore school going children across the country. The key components of this initiative are DIKSHA - the nation's digital infrastructure, 200 PM e-VIDYA DTH TV Channels to provide supplementary education in various Indian languages for classes 1-12, ePathshala initiative to disseminate Digital Books and eContents, eJaadui Pitara is a digital app to supplement and a complement to the physical Jaadui Pitara, a vertical on Virtual Labs created on DIKSHA platform where 280 Virtual Labs for Science and Mathematics for subjects Class 6th to 12th have been made available.

The above digital initiatives of Department of School Education & Literacy especially "ICT and Smart Classroom component" provide basic infrastructure to the students and transform the classroom into tech-driven class. The students increase engagement with multimedia content and interactive activities, while availing wider range of resources. This fosters deeper understanding, collaboration, and digital literacy for students, enriching their overall educational experience.

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