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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1132
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2021

New Education Policy

1132. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that dependence on the internet and suitable and expensive mobility equipment and the sudden closure of educational institutions and the consequent mass dropouts across the country rendered the newly framed National Educational Policy (NEP) practically infructuous in the short and medium run; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government to increase active participation of students in the virtual instruction mode of education?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION

(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (b): In pursuance of the goals and objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Department has developed an indicative and suggestive Implementation Plan for School Education, called 'Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education (SARTHAQ)'. This implementation plan delineates the roadmap and way forward for smooth and effective implementation of NEP, 2020. The implementation of SARTHAQ would benefit all stakeholders including students, schools, teachers, Educational Administrators, Parents, and community. Further, various steps have been taken for implementation of the recommendations of NEP 2020 by the organizations concerned.

A comprehensive Covid action plan has been shared with the States and UTs on 4th May 2021, outlining the role of local bodies, formation of nodal group at village/town level, conducting door-to-door/helpdesk-based/app based survey to identify out of school children, their mainstreaming and resource sharing.

During the pandemic, the Ministry of Education has taken various steps for providing children continued access to education, which are available to each category of students irrespective of their region or economic standard. A comprehensive initiative called PMeVidya has been started which aims to unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes all forms of digital modes to provide remote access DIKSHA (online), SWAYAM (online), SWAYAM PRABHA (TV), other TV Channels including use of Doordarshan and AIR Networks. Further, Pragyata guidelines were issued to States/UTs to facilitate continued education through various modes. The guidelines provide all forms of digital modes to provide remote access inter-alia include situation where internet connectivity is not available or available with very less bandwidth, resources are shared through various platforms like television, radio etc that do not depend on internet.

An Alternate Academic Calendar has been prepared for learning solutions for grade 1 to 12 for both children with and without device. Besides these, community radio, worksheets & textbooks supplied to residence of learners, home visits by teachers, community classes, toll free numbers, SMS based requests for audio content, localised radio content for edutainment etc have been used. The steps taken by all the states are shown in the - India Report Digital Education June 2020, which is available at the following link:

https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/India_Report_Digital_Education_0.pdf.

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