GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2962
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 15.12.2021

IT FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS

2962. SHRI VINOD L. CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:-

(a) whether electronics and IT facilities are not available to the students of economically weaker sections in the country and if so, the details thereof along with reaction of the Government thereto; and

(b) the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) and (b):   The Government of India has created electronics and IT facilities across the country for the students. The details of the initiatives taken by the Government to provide electronics and IT facilities to the students including the students of economically weaker sections of the country are as under:

i) The Samagra Shiksha initiative of Ministry of Education(MoE) is a programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. Under the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) component of the Scheme, there is a provision to impart computer literacy and computer enabled learning to children, by developing and deploying curriculum based interactive multimedia, digital books, virtual labs etc. across the country. It supports establishment of smart classrooms, and ICT labs in schools, including support for hardware, educational software and e-content for teaching. So far under this initiative, ICT Labs have been approved in 1,14,917 schools and the Smart classrooms have been approved in 58499 schools across the country.

ii) Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has setup National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), to carry out Human Resource Development and related activities in the area of Information, Electronics & Communications Technology (IECT). At present, NIELIT has forty-three (43) Centre's located across the country including 22 Centers in the North Eastern Region and Centres at Kargil, Leh, Daman etc. NIELIT is also well

networked throughout India with the presence of about 700 + accredited Centres. Under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), the students of weaker section (viz. SC, ST etc) are being provided with free training in electronics and IT domain.

iii) Ministry of Electronics and IT has implemented OLabs(Online Labs) as a National platform for students to practice procedural, manipulative, observational and interpretive in Science subjects. There are 173 Online Labs available covering various subjects viz. Physics(54), Chemistry(46), Biology(36), Maths(25), and English(12). The OLabs contents are available in the public domain

at www.olabs.edu.in. These online labs are covering Simulators, Animations, Videos along with theoretical knowledge. As on date 4 Lakh learners are using the platform and over 50,000 teachers have been trained.

iv) Under the IT for Masses Programme of MeitY, in order to narrow down the digital divide in the country, activities in ICT domain for focused groups (Women, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Senior Citizen, Differently Abled & Economic Weaker Section (EWS)) and underprivileged areas (North Eastern Region, Backward Districts and Blocks & Districts having more than 40% SC/ST population) for inclusive growth of IT Sectors through Infrastructure Creation, Training, Capacity Building & Entrepreneurship Creation activities in IT domain are being implemented. Under this programme, Grant-in-Aid support is provided for IT Infrastructure Creation, Deployment of IT Tools, IT and Electronics Training and Capacity Building, Cluster Development & Entrepreneurship Creation activities in IT domain.

v) MeitY along with Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has initiated setting up of intelligent educational infrastructure in 170 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS).

vi) MeitY has initiated setting up of ICT infrastructure in 40 Government schools across eight north eastern states for personalized adaptive learning by providing smart ICT facilities viz. interactive board, internet facilities and virtual reality contents for the students of class 7 to 10.

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