

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1164
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11th February, 2021

Lack of access to online classes and use of technology in rural areas

1164 Shri Sanjay Singh:

Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the shift to online education mode during the pandemic has made the socio-economic divide between the urban and rural population more acute due to poor access to internet and technology;
- (b) if so, the measures proposed by Government to mitigate the gap;
- (c) whether Government is aware about the inefficiency of radios and televisions used as a medium of instruction for school children; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government to resolve the issue?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a) to (d) Online classes are being conducted at the schools by employing various digital tools. Various efforts have been made for the creation of digital infrastructure which would not only be helpful in the current circumstances but would also be valuable asset for online learning in future.

All the steps taken by all the states are shown in this report - India Report Digital Education June 2020

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

Learning programmes have also being started in the form of offline learning tools in the form of radio, community radio and CBSE podcasts, toll free numbers, missed call, SMS based requests for audio content, localized radio content for edutainment etc. The medium of TV, radio has been used for the students who do not have digital means.

In order to enable online education benefit to the children of every category and teachers, Learning Enhancement Guidelines have been issued on 19 August 2020.

https://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/Learning_Enhancement_0.pdf
