



Press Release

## **MURAD RAAS INDICATES SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN CURRICULUM Digitized Textbooks for Primary Grades 4 and 5 Launched**

Lahore, December 27, 2018

The launch of “Digitized Textbooks for Primary Grades 4 and 5” developed by Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) including 670 animated videos, 3288 audio minutes, 580 audio voice over minutes, 130 simulations and 260 MCQs is a landmark project, which needs to be made more simplified, accessible to all students and to create awareness in this regard. Dr. Murad Raas Provincial Minister for School Education said while addressing the launch ceremony of e.Learn Project here today.

He said that significant changes were being made in the curriculum and the government was committed to take all measures to facilitate the children by improving the conditions of the public sector schools in the province. It has been observed during the last three months that school education department has never been under the radar of government reforms despite PITB’s important technological reforms, he stated.

He added that the PITB’s initiative of digitizing the textbooks was a revolutionary step, which could help the students’ manifolds and to eliminate the tuition culture. Though Textbooks for grade 6 to 10 have been digitalized since 2 years but lacked awareness, which required marketing on massive scale, he urged.

Murad Raas disclosed that a centralized database was being established to gather all information regarding teachers and students’ attendance, curriculum activity, respective monitoring and indicating missing facilities at one place, having common sharing, to be developed within next three months. PITB’s mapping of schools in the Punjab through ICT interventions identified location, NSB Fund, students’ enrolment and number of teachers, to assess the requirements of the particular schools and to help in rationalizing the need and demand of employees at schools and to regulate their needs, he informed.

Earlier, in his welcome address Habibur Rehman Gilani Chairman PITB informed that Human Resource system of all schools including salary etc details was being computerized while software developed by PITB for education and other sectors were providing data to all policy makers with a one click. The e.Learn’s digitized textbooks were also helpful for those who couldn’t attend schools while creating awareness was a challenge and training to use online resources was being made mandatory, he said.

Ghulam Fareed Special Secretary School Education Department underlined the need to design curriculum and the contents for all and to improve the teaching skills through trainings. Punjab Curriculum Textbooks Board (PCTB) Chairman General (Retired) Muhammad Akram informed that error free books of science subjects including Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics were first digitized in the first phase for grades 6 to 12 while in the second phase 200 humanities books, technology, technical education, general science and business administration would be included. More subjects of agriculture, Veterinary and animal science would bring economic benefits for the country, he said.