

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 119
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25th July, 2022**

Quality of Education

†*119. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the low quality of primary and intermediate education and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has recently reviewed the enrollment of students in the country particularly in rural areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to promote computer and technical education in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the primary and intermediate education in the country?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 119 TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2022 ASKED BY
HON'BLE MP SHRI RAHUL KASWAN REGARDING QUALITY OF EDUCATION**

(a): Standard of education is a comprehensive term that includes learners, teachers, teaching learning process, learning environment, curriculum, pedagogy, learning outcomes, assessment, etc. Samagra Shiksha focuses on improvement in quality of education by providing support for different interventions to all States and UTs, like in-service training of teachers and school heads, conduct of achievement surveys at state and national level, composite school grant to every school for providing a conducive learning environment, grants for library, sports and physical activities, support for Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan, ICT and digital initiatives, School Leadership development programme, remedial teaching for academically weaker students, support for Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat, etc.

Further, the Government of India has been implementing a programme of sample based National Achievement Survey (NAS) aimed at classes III, V, VIII and X with a cycle period of three years. The last round of NAS was held on November 12, 2021 across India covering students of grades 3, 5, 8 and 10. The aim and objective of NAS is to evaluate children's progress and learning competencies as an indicator of the health of the education system, so as to take appropriate steps for remedial actions at different levels. National, State/UT and District Reports for NAS 2021 have been released on 25.05.2022 and are available at <http://nas.gov.in> .

(b): As per UDISE+ data, total enrolment of students during the year 2020-21 in all management schools, across the country was 253804461 including 178684204 students from rural areas. In addition, to ensure that children have access to education with quality and equity and to minimize the impact of the pandemic on school education in the country, Ministry of Education has shared guidelines dated 7th January, 2021 with all States & UTs which, among others, include identification of out of school children from age 6-18 years, enrolment drives and awareness generation, student support while schools are closed, continued Education for children with Special Needs (CWSN), student support on school reopening and Teacher capacity building. Link to the Guidelines is https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/guidelines_oosc.pdf.

(c): In order to ensure that every student including those residing in rural areas of the country, gets continuous access to education, a multi-pronged approach has been adopted by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education. A comprehensive initiative called PM e-Vidya has been started as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan on 17th

May, 2020, which unifies all efforts related to digital/ online / on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes the following components:

- DIKSHA the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in states/UTs: and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (one nation, one digital platform)
- One earmarked Swayam Prabha TV channel per class from 1 to 12 (one class, one channel)
- Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and CBSE Podcast- Shiksha Vani
- Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/ YouTube

Where the digital facility (mobile device/DTH television) is not available, Ministry of Education has taken many initiatives like Community Radio Stations and a podcast called Shiksha Vani of CBSE, Textbooks, worksheet supplied to residence of learners, and community/mohalla classes. Innovation Funds of the Department are used to set up mobile school, virtual studios, virtual class rooms in schools. Continuous Learning Plan (CLP) for states/UTs has been initiated in all States/UTs, pre-loaded tablets in various states and UTs are effectively used in remote rural areas where online classes are difficult.

The India Report on Digital Education, 2021 which shows the digital and remote learning initiatives through the use of digital technology across the country has been prepared. Link to the report is https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/irde_21.pdf.

Also, Samagra Shiksha is implemented in partnership with all the States and UTs and financial assistance is provided to all States and UTs for various components including strengthening of ICT infrastructure in schools. The ICT component of the scheme envisages covering all Government and Aided schools from classes VI to XII and Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs), subject to the availability of budgetary provision. Till date, ICT labs in 120614 schools and Smart Classrooms in 82120 schools have been approved.

(d): The following initiatives have been taken by the Government to improve the quality of primary and intermediate education in the country:

1. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha and PM Poshan have been aligned to the recommendation of NEP 2020. Samagra Shiksha is an Integrated Centrally Sponsored Scheme for school education extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. Samagra Shiksha focuses on improvement in quality of education by providing support

for different interventions like in-service training of teachers and school heads, conduct of achievement surveys, composite school grant to every school for providing a conducive learning environment, grants for library, sports and physical activities, etc. Under the scheme, financial assistance is also provided to States and UTs for undertaking various activities to ensure universal access to education including opening/strengthening of new schools upto senior secondary level, construction of school buildings & additional classrooms, up-gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, setting up of residential schools/hostels.

2. National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) has been launched under Samagra Shiksha for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) by the end of Grade 3, and e-content for the same has been released in DIKSHA platform.
3. NISHTHA integrated training programme 1.0, 2.0, and 3.0 Integrated Teacher Training Programme has been introduced for different stages of school education for Teachers, Head Teachers/Principals and other stakeholders in Educational Management.
4. Learning Outcomes for the Secondary level have been notified.
5. National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 has been conducted on 12th November, 2021 by the Ministry of Education to evaluate children's progress and learning competencies as an indicator of the health of the education system, to take appropriate steps for remedial actions at different levels.
6. A 70 indicator based matrix Performance Grading Index (PGI) has been developed to grade the States/UTs. District level Performance Grading Indices (PGI) has been prepared and a Web application for compilation of PGI-District has been developed.
7. The Structured Assessment for Analyzing Learning levels (SAFAL) framework has been developed by CBSE and launched on 29th July, 2021 for Competency-based assessment in CBSE schools for grades 3, 5 and 8 focusing on testing for core concepts, application-based questions and higher-order thinking skills.
8. VIDYA PRAVESH—Guidelines for three-month Play-based School Preparation Module for Grade-I Children, has been released on 29th July, 2021 to ensure that all children are exposed to a warm and welcoming environment when they enter Grade-I.
