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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1157
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2021

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on girl's education

1157 **Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:**
Shri Syed Nasir Hussain:

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

(a) whether Government has assessed the detrimental impact of COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown on girls' access to education;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of female students who have dropped out from schools at primary and secondary level between March, 2020 and January, 2021;

(d) whether Government has operationalised the Gender Inclusion Fund envisaged in the National Education Policy, 2020;

(e) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor; and

(f) the quantum of funds that will be allocated to the same in current and next financial year?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a) to (c): Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the schools come under the purview of the respective State and UT Governments. In order to mitigate the impact of challenges thrown by the COVID-19 pandemic for school children including girls and for preventing drop outs, lower enrolments and loss of learning, the Ministry of Education has issued instructions to the States & UTs from time to time for ensuring continued education with quality and equity.

The Ministry has issued the guidelines dated 13th July, 2020 for continuing education of children of migrant labourers and guidelines dated 7th January, 2021 detailing the steps to be taken by the States & UTs during the school closure and when the school re-opens, like identification of out of school children from age 6 to 18 years, enrollment drives and awareness generation, student support while schools are closed, continued education for Children with Special Needs (CwSN) etc.

During the COVID -19 pandemic online mode of education has been adopted in schools using various digital modes. Ministry of Education through National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has conducted a survey in the month of July, 2020 with the help of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan(KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti(NVS) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to understand the scenario of Online Learning of school students including girls in COVID-19 pandemic situation. NCERT has prepared 'Alternative Academic Calendar' and 'Students' Learning Enhancement Guidelines'. The guidelines suggest models for the following three types of scenarios to ensure that no child is deprived of reach of education:-

(i) Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students without digital devices;
(ii) Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students with limited accessibility to digital devices &
(iii) Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students with digital devices.

(d) to (f): National Education Policy, 2020, provides for setting up a Gender Inclusion Fund (GIF) especially for girls and transgender students to build the nation's capacity to provide equitable quality education for all girls as well as transgender students. The Department initiatives towards GIF and preparation of its guidelines are underway.

****