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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1930

TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2021

Learning loss due to Covid

1930 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Standing Committee on Education in a report in August 2021 has suggested undertaking a comprehensive assessment to gauge the overall learning loss due to COVID-19;

(b) if so, the steps that have been taken by the Ministry in this regard;

(c) whether the Ministry has identified cases of unfair exploitation of poor students by private coaching centres/online teacher platforms taking advantage of the situation; and

(d) if so, the steps that are being planned to regulate the private coaching sector and the online teaching platforms respectively?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir, it is recommended in the report. National Achievement Survey (NAS) was conducted on 12.11.2021 in 717 districts of the country to assess learning levels of sampled children of grades 3, 5, 8 and 10. Besides, the Department advised the States/UTs vide letter dated 01.02.2021 to conduct survey of children with access and without access to digital devices. A sample survey was conducted in the month of July, 2020 for schools of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) by the Department. Subsequently, further surveys were conducted in early 2020-21 regarding availability of various forms of digital devices with children. NVS has reported 92.95% and KVS has more than 98% of students having full or partial access to some digital device. Accordingly, various initiatives were taken by the Ministry of Education, States and Union Territories to mitigate the effect of the Covid pandemic on school education. A detailed report on these initiatives may be seen at the website of Education Ministry at following link: https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/update/covid_initiatives.pdf

(c) & (d) Education being in the concurrent list of the Constitution, majority of the schools, and colleges are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. The subject matter of regulation of private coaching centres/online teacher platforms comes under the purview of the concerned State/UT Government. However, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has launched a 'Cyber Security Handbook' to ensure safe and healthy digital habits among students. This module covers topics in cyber safety, such as cyber bullying, including social exclusion, intimidation, defamation, and emotional harassment, online sexual abuse, cyber radicalisation, online attack and frauds, and online enticement. The 'Cyber Security Handbook' can be accessed at this link: http://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Manuals/Cyber_Safety_Manual.pdf.

Further, Pragyata guidelines on digital education were issued by this Department with a focus on the methodology, time spent, etc. for online/blended/digital education for students who are presently at home due to the closure of schools. The guidelines provides sufficient Do's and Don'ts regarding ergonomics and cyber safety. The guidelines are available at :

https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/pragyata-guidelines_0.pdf

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