

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.33**

TO BE ANSWERED ON 2nd February, 2022

Learning Poverty in India

33. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the learning poverty in India is expected to increase from 55 per cent to 70 per cent due to learning loss and more out-of-school children in the country during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to improve the quality of learning system in the country?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a) and (b): Due to the unprecedented crisis of Covid-19, all countries across the world have been affected. The pandemic has led to severe disruption in normal life, including school education. Ministry of Education has taken the following initiatives to help States and schools to mitigate the effects of the pandemic:

(i) Guidelines for ensuring Education of Children of Migrant Labourers: Ministry has issued guidelines to the States with a focus on the identification of migrant children and providing them admission to the nearby government school without the requirement of submitting any document except an identity card.

(ii) Guidelines for identification of Out of School Children: The Guidelines, inter alia, include identification of out of school children, enrolment drives and awareness generation, student support while schools are closed.

(iii) Online Tracking of Out Of School Children (OoSC): The Ministry of Education has launched a new online system to capture Child Wise information of Out of School Children on the PRABANDH portal of the Department.

(iv) A comprehensive initiative called PM e-VIDYA has been initiated 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:

- DIKSHA (one nation, one digital platform) is the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in states/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades are available on it. 35 of the 36 states and UTs have on boarded on DIKSHA platform and contextualised the content as per the local need.
- One earmarked Swayam Prabha TV channel per class from Class 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.

(v) An Alternate Academic Calendar has been prepared for providing learning solutions for grade 1 to 12 and 'Students' Learning Enhancement Guidelines' prepared by NCERT suggest models for the following three types of scenarios to ensure that no child is deprived of reach of education:

- a) Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students without digital devices;
- b) Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students with limited accessibility to digital devices &
- c) Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students with digital devices.

(vi) PRAGYATA guidelines were issued to States/UTs to facilitate continued education through various modes. The guidelines inter-alia include situations where internet connectivity is not available or available with very less bandwidth where

resources are shared through various platforms like television, radio etc that do not depend on internet.

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, Handbook on 21st Century Skills and community/mohalla classes are organized. 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.

(c): To improve the quality of education across the country, the Government of India has taken the following steps:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Learning Outcomes for the Secondary level have been notified.
- National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) was entrusted to conduct teachers training through ODL (Open Distance Learning) mode, which has been completed by about 9.78 lakh teachers.
- National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) has been launched under SamagraShiksha for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) by the end of Grade 3.

- Structured Assessment for Analyzing Learning levels (SAFAL) framework has been developed by CBSE and launched on 29th July 2021. Competency-based assessment will be introduced in CBSE schools for grades 3, 5 and 8 as per NEP 2020 focusing on testing for core concepts, application-based questions and higher-order thinking skills.
- VIDYA PRAVESH—Guidelines for Three-month Play-based School Preparation Module for Grade-I Children, has been released on 29th July 2021 as per the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to ensure that all children are exposed to a warm and welcoming environment when they enter Grade-I.
