

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1148
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2022

Primary education in rural areas

1148 Shri S. Selvaganabathy:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to implement the principle of equity in primary education in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to prepare an action plan to strengthen the infrastructure and quality of primary education in rural areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

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

(a)&(b): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE), 2009 provides right of free and compulsory elementary education to every child in the age group of six to fourteen years in a neighborhood school. As per the RTE Act, the appropriate Government and the local authority shall establish a school for primary classes (class I – V) within walking distance of one km of the neighborhood. The Government of India has launched Samagra Shiksha, which is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. Samagra Shiksha supports States and UTs in implementation of the RTE Act, 2009.

Bridging gender and social category gaps at all levels of school education is one of the major objectives of the scheme. The scheme reaches out to girls and children belonging to Scheduled Caste,

Scheduled Tribe, minority communities and other disadvantaged groups. Under the scheme, provision has been made for giving preference to Special Focus Districts, Educationally Backward Blocks, Left Wing Extremism affected districts, and aspirational districts while planning interventions like setting up of primary schools, construction of additional classrooms, gender segregated toilets, drinking water facilities, etc.

(c) to (e): The Samagra Shiksha scheme supports States for strengthening of school infrastructure, including in rural areas, based on the gaps determined by Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+) and proposals received from respective States/UTs. The scheme also provides financial support for annual maintenance and repair of existing school buildings, toilets and other facilities to upkeep the infrastructure in good condition.

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 at state and national level, 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.

Besides, the following are some of the steps taken to improve infrastructure and the quality of primary education:-

- (i) 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 on DIKSHA platform.
- (ii) National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 has been conducted on 12th November 2021 to assess children's learning competencies as an indicator of the health of the education system, to take appropriate steps for remedial actions at different levels.
- (iii) The Structured Assessment for Analyzing Learning levels (SAFAL) framework has been developed by CBSE and launched for Competency-based assessment for grades 3, 5 and 8 focusing on core concepts, application based questions and higher-order thinking skills.
- (iv) VIDYA PRAVESH—Guidelines for Three-month Play-based School Preparation Module, has been released to ensure that all children are exposed to a warm and welcoming environment when they enter Grade-I.
