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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 335
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2022

Dip in school scores

335 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Achievement Survey (NAS) conducted by Government found that school scores in all States except Punjab and Rajasthan have dipped compared to five years ago;
(b) if so, whether Government has identified the major reasons for said decline and details thereof;
(c) what steps have been taken to bring back such students who have dropped out of school during the pandemic; and
(d) whether Government has identified issues with the quality of teaching/structure of the curriculum and if so, how and by when Government is planning to rectify these issues?

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

(a) & (b) 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 including the state of Punjab & Rajasthan for NAS 2021 have been released on 25.05.2022 and are available at http://nas.gov.in. The reports help diagnose learning gaps & determine interventions necessary in education policies, teaching practices and learning.

Post NAS interventions support State/UT governments in developing long term, mid-term & short-term interventions to improve learning levels and orient on differential planning based on NAS 2021 data.

(c) & (d) During pandemic, Ministry of Education had several consultations with the States and UTs to assess the various aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. With a view of addressing the issues related to gaps and/or loss of learning among students, during and after the lockdown, National Council of Education Research & Training (NCERT) has prepared 'Alternative Academic Calendar' which is a week-wise learning plan for grades 1 to 12. It consists of interesting activities and challenges related to topics/themes in the syllabus. It maps the topics/themes with the learning outcomes & facilitates teachers/parents to assess the progress in students' learning in a variety of ways. Also links for e-resources have been

provided for those learners who have access to the internet. NCERT has also developed bridge course modules for out-of-school children including various activities which are helpful for bridging the learning gaps and the States/UTs have also been requested to prepare and implement School Readiness Module/Bridge Course in classrooms for initial one or two months for each grade.

In addition, a comprehensive initiative called PM eVIDYA has been initiated 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

SWAYAM is a programme initiated by Government of India and designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of Education Policy viz., access, equity and quality. The objective of this effort is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged and to bridge the digital divide for students.

NISHTHA integrated training programme 1.0, 2.0, and 3.0 Integrated Teacher Training Programme has been introduced for different stages of school education - Teachers, Head Teachers/Principals and other stakeholders in Educational Management and Administration have been introduced –

- NISHTHA 1.0 for Elementary level (Classes I-VIII)
- NISHTHA 2.0 for Secondary level (Classes IX-XII)
- NISHTHA 3.0 for NIPUN Bharat (ECCE to Class V)

A National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy called "National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)" has been launched by the Ministry of Education (MoE) on 5th July 2021 under the aegis of Samagra Shiksha. The National Mission lays down priorities and actionable agendas for States/UTs to achieve the goal of proficiency in foundational literacy and numeracy for every child by grade 3. Vidya Pravesh module has been launched for class I students. This is a play based 3 months school preparation program for children entering in Class I.

Also, to bridge the learning gaps and to ensure continuity of education, this Department has shared a comprehensive Learning Recovery Plan with all the states and Union Territories on 01.02.2022 describing the actions/ activities to be undertaken by all the stakeholders, indicative annual calendar of activities, existing interventions which can be utilized and additional support with funds as one time measure. The weblink for the same is https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/lpr_2023.pdf

CBSE has come out with reduction in syllabus as per the recommendation of NCERT to mitigate the effect of lockdown and to make way for critical thinking and more holistic, inquiry-based, discovery-based, discussion-based, and analysis-based learning.

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