

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-28
ANSWERED ON 07/12/2022

QUALITY EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY

28 SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that every ten new schools established in the country, seven are private independent schools in the last eight years as reported by UNESCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a mass increase in the rate of private tutoring noted in the country;

(d) if so, how the aim of providing good and quality education to all can be achieved; and

(e) the steps taken to increase the ratio of Government schools in the country with quality infrastructure?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools come under the purview of the respective State Government/ UT Administration. The opening and closing of schools are within the purview of respective State Government and UT Administration who are the appropriate Government under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, and have the responsibility and mandate to provide school infrastructure in schools in accordance with the norms laid down in the Schedule to the RTE Act, 2009 and as per respective State RTE Rules.

As reported by States/UTs in their respective Annual Work Plan and Budget, 2022-23, 97.18% and 97.15% of habitations in the country are covered by primary and upper primary schools respectively. Also, 96.09% and 91.65% of habitations in the country are covered by Secondary and Senior Secondary schools respectively based on the distance norms of 5 km and 7-10 km for Secondary and Sr. Secondary school respectively. The habitations that remain uncovered are mostly small or sparsely populated in difficult areas where opening of school is not feasible for which there is a provision of giving transport and escort facility and opening of residential schools and hostels.

Under Samagra Shiksha, States and UTs are supported for opening/ upgrading/ strengthening of existing government schools, and for creation and augmentation of infrastructure facilities based on the gaps determined from Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) database and proposals received from respective State/UT. The need for schools and also the infrastructural facilities in schools are worked out every year by the respective State/Union Territory on incremental basis depending on their need and priority and reflected in their Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B).

The following initiatives have been taken by the Department of School Education and Literacy, MoE to improve the quality of education upto Higher Secondary level:

- 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 in DIKSHA platform.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Learning Outcomes for the Secondary level have been notified 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, and to take appropriate steps for remedial actions at different levels.
- iv. A 70 indicator-based matrix Performance Grading Index (PGI) has been developed to grade the States/UTs. District level Performance Grading Indices (PGI) have been prepared and a Web application for compilation of PGI-District has been developed.
- v. The Structured Assessment for Analyzing Learning levels (SAFAL) framework has been developed by CBSE and launched on 29th July 2021 for Competency-based assessment in CBSE schools for grades 3, 5 and 8 focusing on testing for core concepts, application-based questions and higher-order thinking skills.
- vi. VIDYA PRAVESH—Guidelines for Three-month Play-based School Preparation Module for Grade-I Children have been released on 29th July 2021 for all children to expose to a warm and welcoming environment in Grade-I.
- vii. Indian Sign Language has been introduced as a subject at secondary level by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).