

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-36
ANSWERED ON 07/12/2022

POOR NUMERACY AND LITERACY SKILLS IN LOWER EDUCATION

36 DR. AMEE YAJNIK:
SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the findings of the NCERT survey conducted in March 2022, which revealed that 37 per cent of Class III students have limited basic numeracy skills and 11 per cent lack basic knowledge and skills;
- (b) if so, the reforms proposed to be implemented by Government to address the situation;
- (c) the same survey found that 15 per cent of students lacked basic skills in English, with 30 per cent having limited skills, in the light of this, whether Government intends to re-evaluate the teaching methods and curriculum; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (d): A large-scale assessment & benchmarking study for foundational learning, Foundational Learning Study (FLS) was administered from 23rd-26th March, 2022 by NCERT at the national level. FLS was conducted in 20 different languages - Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, English, Garo, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Khasi, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Mizo, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu. Approximately 86,000 grade 3 students from 10,000 schools were covered. Students were assessed on their understanding of Foundational Literacy and Foundational Numeracy Lakshyas as highlighted in NIPUN Bharat for grade 3.

As an important literacy skill, FLS 2022 assessed 'Reading with understanding' skill of class 3 students. Pertaining to the linguistics differences in languages, benchmarks have been calculated distinctly for each of the 20 languages that aim to interpret the performance of the

students in reading with understanding/comprehension in each of the 20 languages separately. The benchmarks for Reading with Understanding for each of the languages can be accessed at https://dse.education.gov.in/fls_2022. However, to adjudge the health of education system, National Achievement Survey 2021 (NAS) was conducted on 12th November 2021.

The programme to focus on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) has been initiated by the Ministry of Education in a mission mode. The FLN Mission aims to ensure that all the children achieve foundational learning standards by the end of grade 3, by the year 2026-27. Under the FLN mission, the 'National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy' (NIPUN- BHARAT) guidelines provide the roadmap for strengthening the domain of foundational learning at the national level.

As post FLS strategy, workshops have been organised to disseminate the findings of the study and to deliberate on the way forward. 'National Workshop on Foundational Learning Study' was organised on Nov 4, 2022. This was followed by an elaborate 2-day workshop on 17-18th November 2022 wherein the focus was to facilitate reading and appropriate interpretation of the state/UT reports and development of the roadmap to plan the interventions for improvement of foundational learning attainment. Workshops are also conducted at State/District level to disseminate the findings of the study, reading and interpretation of the report and the planning of interventions.
