

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.42
ANSWERED ON 07/12/2022**

Decline in number of schools and teachers

42 Shri Rajeev Shukla:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that more than 20,000 schools were closed across the country during 2020-21 while the number of teachers also declined by 1.95 per cent in comparison to the previous year;
- (b) if so, whether Government has analysed its impact on access and quality of education to children;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken for improving access and quality of education for students in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a): The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education has developed the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) system to record data on indicators of school education provided by all the States and Union Territories. The total number of schools and teachers as per UDISE+ data for the year 2020-21 and 2021-22 are as under:

Parameters	Years	
	2020-21	2021-22
Number of schools	1509136	1489115
Number of teachers	9696425	9507123

(b) to (d): Decline in schools in 2021-22 is mainly due to rationalisation of schools by various State governments and closure of private and other schools during pandemic. Similarly, the main reason for decline in teachers is due to deployment of fewer teachers in private schools during the pandemic period when schools were operating through online mode.

To improve the quality of education in the country, Department of School Education and Literacy, has taken following specific steps:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Learning Outcomes for the Secondary level have been notified.
4. 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.
5. To ensure universal acquisition of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) skills and to establish a baseline for NIPUN Bharat Mission, Nationwide Foundational Learning Survey (FLS) for Grade 3 students was carried out by Ministry of Education. The objective of the study was to establish reading proficiency benchmark for fluency and comprehension for each of the language considered under the survey and proficiency benchmark for numeracy. The report of the survey was published on 2nd September 2022. Ministry of Education also organized workshops on Post-FLS interventions with all the States/UTs including a National Workshop to collaborate & support activities in the States/UTs to improve the foundational Literacy and Numeracy skills.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. VIDYA PRAVESH—Guidelines for Three-month Play-based School Preparation Module for Grade-I Children have been released on 29th July 2021 to ensure that all children are exposed to a warm and welcoming environment when they enter Grade-I.
9. Introduction of Indian Sign Language as a subject at secondary level by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).
