

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1629
ANSWERED ON - 15/03/2023**

Learning deficit during the pandemic

1629 **Smt. Vandana Chavan:**

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted any study to check the learning deficit levels amongst school going children due to the prolonged school closure during the pandemic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has made a strategy to ensure learning recovery and acceleration;
- (d) whether Government has taken any measures to ensure re-enrolment of children who have dropped out during the lockdown; and
- (e) if so, the achievements during the financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Due to the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, schools in States and Union Territories (UT) were closed as a precautionary measure to protect the students. This has interrupted the learning of students from pre-school to grade 12. Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. During the pandemic, Ministry of Education held several consultations with the States and UTs to assess the various aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, 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 for NAS 2021 have been released on 25.05.2022 and are available at <http://nas.gov.in>.

(c) In order to mitigate the impact of challenges thrown by the COVID-19 pandemic for migrant children and for preventing drop outs, lower enrolments and loss of learning, the Ministry of Education issued guidelines for identification, smooth admission process and continued education of migrant children on 13.07.2020. To ensure that children have access to education with quality and equity and to minimize the impact of the pandemic on school education in the country, the Department of School Education had prepared and issued

detailed guidelines on 7th January, 2021, on the steps to be taken by the States and UTs. The guidelines, among others, include identification of out of school children from age 6-18 years, enrolment drives and awareness generation, student support while schools are closed, continued education for children with Special Needs (CWSN), student support on school reopening and Teacher capacity building. The Department of School Education and Literacy vide letter dated 4th May, 2021 had shared a comprehensive Covid Action plan with States/UTs and other stakeholders for mitigating the loss of learning.

A comprehensive initiative called PM eVIDYA had 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

Where the digital facility (mobile device/ DTH television) is not available, Ministry of Education has taken many initiatives like Community Radio Stations and a podcast called Shiksha Vani of CBSE, Textbooks, worksheet supplied to residence of learners, Handbook on 21st Century Skills and community/mohalla classes were organized. Innovation Funds of the Department were used to set up mobile school, virtual studios, virtual class rooms in schools, Continuous Learning Plan (CLP) for States/UTs was initiated in all States/UTs, pre-loaded tablets under Samagra Shiksha in various states and UTs were effectively used in remote/rural areas where online classes were difficult. Further in order to provide continuous professional development opportunities to the teachers at the elementary level, this Department launched the NISHTHA online training programme using DIKSHA platform in October 2020. NISHTHA online for elementary level covered 18 modules in 11 languages, including use of ICT in teaching-learning.

(d) & (e) This Department has developed an online module for compiling the data of Out of School Children (OOSC) identified by each State/UT and their mapping with Special Training Centres (STC) on the PRABANDH Portal (<http://samagrashiksha.in>). The portal requires the concerned State/UT to validate the child wise information of the identified OOSC and STC uploaded by the concerned Block Resource Centre of the State for monitoring the progress of mainstreaming of OOSC. Also, Bridge Course Modules have been developed for bridging the learning gaps of Out of School Children studying in Special Training Centers (STC) under the provision of RTE Act, 2009. The state-wise detail of out of school students identified and mainstreamed during the year 2020-21 and 2021-22 is at **Annexure**.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN PART (d) & (e) OF THE REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1629 TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2023 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SMT. VANDANA CHAVAN REGARDING "LEARNING DEFICIT DURING THE PANDEMIC"

S. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Number of Out of School Children (6-14 Years) Identified by the States and UTs in 2020-21 & 2021-22		Status of Out of School Children Enrolled in Schools Through Direct Enrollment and Mainstreaming after Completion of Special Training			
		2020-21	2021-22	2020-21		2021-22	
				Direct Enrolment	Mainstreamed	Direct Enrolment	Mainstreamed
1	A&N Island	0	63	0	0	0	63
2	Andhra Pradesh	38231	49138	8557	17480	6376	4204
3	Arunachal Pradesh	996	1531	0	0	0	1531
4	Assam	84836	82801	10296	40242	14974	55792
5	Bihar	111861	936541	52322	51875	642348	53938
6	Chandigarh	3719	3266	353	2206	262	3657
7	Chhattisgarh	20077	27695	5652	2375	13215	10643
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli + Daman & Diu	152	996	28	124	28	875
9	Delhi	26264	26346	4969	19958	4522	11403
10	Goa	235	98	29	78	0	0
11	Gujarat	37099	42732	4616	22851	16998	15083
12	Haryana	29008	32381	9117	1904	3111	25443
13	Himachal Pradesh	2666	1727	0	384	0	1010
14	Jammu & Kashmir	19937	16537	3607	35296	1200	13
15	Jharkhand	60445	621703	45945	0	421612	85082
16	Karnataka	5648	4303	2726	3248	79	3804
17	Kerala	3164	1811	0	3164	0	1092
18	Lakshadweep	0	0			0	0
19	Ladakh	66	87	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	59818	98083	26547	0	78514	0
21	Maharashtra	27128	23522	12669	59285	10415	39896
22	Manipur	3095	2782	0	2198	0	3051
23	Meghalaya	8040	7212	755	930	433	1104
24	Mizoram	2535	1481	419	1504	0	1328
25	Nagaland	2069	1912	242	414	186	562
26	Odisha	10216	8168	8273	1943	7460	4219
27	Puducherry	35	42	0	35	0	42
28	Punjab	3292	4249	699	1790	442	868
29	Rajasthan	127740	174710	110940	17800	156710	19000
30	Sikkim	113	120	26	0	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	19776	22535	8821	16827	9814	2621
32	Telangana	7834	9113	5749	0	4291	6151
33	Tripura	1449	5926	0	200	5015	558
34	Uttar Pradesh	318611	558751	211421	107190	186772	298548
35	Uttarakhand	4724	4332	3027	1399	2528	1387
36	West Bengal	9904	6850	387	6340	792	6918
Total		1050783	2779544	538192	419040	1588097	659886

Source: Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) 2020-21 & 2021-22