

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1661
ANSWERED ON – 15/03/2023**

School education levels as assessed by the National Achievement surveys

1661 Shri Digvijaya Singh:

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

- (a) details regarding the school education levels during the last five years, as assessed by the National Achievement surveys, Year-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the average performance came down from about 54 per cent to 47 per cent between 2017 and 2021;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government plans to take any steps to improve the education levels in schools that have been closed for more than 500 days , post-pandemic;
- (e) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor; and
- (f) steps taken by Government to aid remote school education during the pandemic?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) 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>. The Details of NAS 2017 & NAS 2021 are available at <http://nas.gov.in>, wherein average student performance(%) in the subjects of EVS, Language, and Mathematics for Classes 3 and 5, and Language, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science for Classes 8 and 10, as assessed in NAS 21 and NAS 17 could be seen.

(d) to (f) The spread of COVID-19 pandemic has impacted school education across the world. Schools in States and Union Territories were closed as a precautionary measure to protect the students from Novel COVID-19 (Corona) virus. 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 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 the Department has also shared a comprehensive Covid Action Plan with States/UTs and other stakeholders for mitigating the loss of learning.

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 1 students. This is a play based 3 months school preparation program for children entering in Class I.

In addition, a comprehensive initiative called PM e-VIDYA has been initiated which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The e-Contents/programme uploaded under PM e-Vidya are based on NCERT curriculum. Besides this, many states have also offered and uploaded their e-Contents for PM e-VIDYA, in line with the curriculum of their education boards/SCERTs. 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.

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. Innovation Funds under Samagra Shiksha have been used to set up mobile school, virtual studios, virtual class rooms in schools, Continuous Learning Plan (CLP), pre-loaded tablets etc. in various states and UTs in remote/rural areas where online classes are difficult. Further, in order to provide continuous professional development opportunities to the teachers at the elementary and secondary level, this Department launched the NISHTHA online training programme using DIKSHA platform.