

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION 3704
ANSWERED ON 05.04.2023**

Centrally Sponsored Schemes for school education in Tamil Nadu

3704 **Dr. M. Thambidurai:**

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

- (a) whether Government is providing funds for various School education programs through Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to provide adequate support for the development of school education in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education is implementing **Samagra Shiksha** from 2018-19 to support States and UTs, including the state of Tamil Nadu for ensuring equity and inclusion at all levels of school education. Under Samagra Shiksha, States and UTs are supported for 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+) and proposals received from respective State/UT.

Education is in the concurrent List of the Constitution and most of the schools are under jurisdiction of concerned States and UTs. State and UT Governments are the appropriate Governments under Right to Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, and have 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 RTE rules.

The scheme has now been redesigned and aligned with the recommendations of the National Education Policy, 2020 and continued till 2025-26. It aims to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which should take care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process. The fund sharing pattern for the scheme between Centre and Tamil Nadu is 60:40 for the scheme.

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). These plans are then appraised and approved/estimated by the Project Approval Board (PAB) in the Department of School Education and Literacy in consultation with the States and UTs. In the FY 2022-23, Government of India released **Rs 210723.33 lakh** to the State Govt. of Tamil Nadu for various interventions under Samagra Shiksha.

The major objectives of Samagra Shiksha Scheme are to provide support for the development of school education in the country are: (i) Support States and UTs in implementing recommendations of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020); (ii) Support States in implementation of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009; (iii) Focus on Early Childhood Care and Education; (iv) Emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy; (v) Thrust on Holistic, Integrated, Inclusive and activity based Curriculum and Pedagogy to impart 21st century skills among the students; (vi) Provision of quality education and enhancing learning outcomes of students; (vii) Bridging Social and Gender Gaps in School Education; (viii) Ensuring equity and inclusion at all levels of school education; (ix) Strengthening and upgradation of State Councils for Educational Research and Training (SCERTs)/State Institutes of Education and District Institutes for Education and Training (DIET) as nodal agency for teacher training; (x) Ensuring safe, secure and conducive learning environment and maintenance of standards in schooling provisions and (xi) Promoting vocational education.

Further, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of PM POSHAN is implemented to improve the nutritional status by providing hot cooked meal to children. Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme is one of the foremost rights based Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented in partnership with States and UTs. This Scheme covers about 12.21 crore children studying in 10.84 lakh Government and Government-Aided Schools in Classes I-VIII and Balvatika (just before class I). Under the Scheme an amount of **Rs. 47700.07 lakh** has been released to the state of Tamil Nadu for the year 2022-23.

The Government is committed to provide quality education by enhancing the standard of education and school infrastructure in the country including rural India. The following initiatives have been taken by Government of India to improve the standard of school education at all levels:

(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) Integrated In-service teacher training programme - NISHTHA 1.0, 2.0, and 3.0 has been introduced under Samagra Shiksha for different stages of school education for Teachers, Head Teachers/Principals and other stakeholders in Educational Management.
- (iii) National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 has been conducted on 12th November 2021 to assess children's learning competencies as an indicator of the health of the education system, 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 Index (PGI) has been prepared for grading of Districts.
- (v) The Structured Assessment for Analysing Learning levels (SAFAL) framework has been developed by CBSE and launched for Competency-based assessment for grades 3, 5 and 8 focusing on core concepts, application- based questions and higher-order thinking skills.
- (vi) VIDYA PRAVESH—Guidelines for Three-month Play-based School Preparation Module, has been released to ensure that all children are exposed to a warm and welcoming environment when they enter Grade-I.
- (vii) Introduction of Indian Sign Language as a subject at secondary level by National Institute of open Schooling (NIOS).
- (viii) The Central Sector Scheme 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme' is also implemented to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue the study at secondary stage. Under the scheme, which is boarded on National Scholarship Portal (NSP), the scholarships are disbursed directly into the Students' bank accounts by Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). No grant is released to the State/UT Government.
