

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-652
ANSWERED ON 26/07/2023

Improving early childhood education

652. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken into cognizance the poor standards of Government run pre-schools across the country;
- (b) if so, steps taken by Government to find reasons for failure;
- (c) whether Government has issued guidelines to State Governments for curriculum design and mandated teacher training for improving early childhood education; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, along with the status of adherence to the guidelines by States?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (b): The National Education Policy 2020 has recommended modification of structure in school education with a new pedagogical and curricular restructuring of 5+3+3+4 covering ages 3-18 for ensuring continuum in education. Initial five years is termed as foundational stage that includes 3 years of preschool education and Grade 1 and 2. The NEP 2020 also, emphasizes on ensuring that all children have access to quality Early Childhood Care and Education, which is crucial for bridging learning gaps and promoting their early development. So far, the number of Government Primary Schools having Pre Primary Section for the year 2021-22 in all States and UTs are 188145 (UDISE, 2021-22). Balvatika which includes one year of pre-primary before grade 1 was also inaugurated on 20th October 2022 in 49 KendriyaVidyalayas at all the three levels of pre-primary classes.

The policy accords the highest priority on achieving universal foundational literacy and numeracy. Accordingly, a dedicated mission ‘National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy’ (NIPUN Bharat) was launched by the government on 5th July 2021. So far, all 36 states and UTs have launched FLN Mission. In order to support this endeavour the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) was launched on 20th October 2022.

It includes engaging Teaching-Learning Material (TLM) both for teachers and students, Teacher capacity building programme, Assessment and pedagogical approaches to guide the nature of syllabus, textbooks and other resource material for teaching and learning in the country to be used at the foundational stage. Jaadui Pitara was recently released on 20th February, 2023 for the foundational stage under the NCF-FS with the motto “Learning through play”. It is an exemplar of content needed in any school for the Foundational Stage. A 3 Months Play Based ‘School Preparation Module and Guidelines’ for grade I named ‘Vidya Pravesh’ was launched on 29th July, 2021. During the year 2022-23 all the states and UTs have implemented Vidya Pravesh in schools. For the year 2023-24 all the states and UTs have initiated Vidya Pravesh Programme in their schools.

(c) to (d): The National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) was launched on 20th October 2022 as guide to support states and UTs to develop their state specific learning material. An implementation plan for the implementation of NCF-FS has also been shared with all the states/ UTs, NCERT, CBSE and KVS in December, 2022. Similarly, a letter has been issued in January, 2023 to all states/UTs for preparing their own syllabi, activity books, textbooks and adapt or adopt the NCF-FS.

With reference to the training of teachers, NISHTHA 3.0- FLN in online mode on DIKSHA platform for teachers and school heads of pre-primary to class V were launched on 7th September, 2021. More than 12 lakh teachers have been trained using this module till date.