

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1158
ANSWERED ON - 13/12/2023

Improvement in Learning Abilities

1158 Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the ASER Report, 2022 which has published alarming data on the deficit in learning abilities of student, like proportion of children enrolled in Class 5 in Government or private schools who can at least read a Class 2-level text fell from 50.5 per cent in 2018 to 42.8 per cent in 2022;
- (b) whether Government carries out an independent assessment of learning abilities, if so, details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has come up with a specific policy measure for the States to take corrective measures particularly in the context of NEP and pandemic, if so, details, thereof?

A N S W E R

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

(a) & (b): The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is released by a non-governmental organization. The Government of India has been implementing a rolling programme of sample based National Achievement Survey (NAS) aimed at classes III, V, VIII and X with a cycle of period of three years. National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been periodically conducting NAS. The 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. The last round of NAS was conducted on 12.11.2021 and had assessed students in Language, Mathematics & Environmental Science for class 3 & 5; Language, Mathematics, Science & Social Science for class 8 and Language, Mathematics, Science, Social Science and English for class 10. About 34 lakh students of 1.18 lakh schools of 720 districts from both rural and urban areas were assessed from (a) Government Schools (Central Government and State Government) (b) Government Aided Schools; and (c) Private Unaided Schools. Further, National, State and District report card of NAS 21 demonstrating the performance of students from each type of schools have been released in public domain on 25.05.2022 at <http://nas.gov.in>. Recently, State Educational Achievement

Survey (SEAS) was conducted on November 03, 2023. The assessment was administered on learners from Grades 3, 6, and, 9 in order to assess the achievement of learning outcomes in Foundational Literacy, Foundational Numeracy, Language and Mathematics at the end of foundational, preparatory and middle stage. The assessment was administered on an approximate sample of 8 million learners across the nation. One of the noteworthy features of SEAS-23 is the expansion of the sample size of students to understand the learning outcomes at the block level.

(c): As per NEP 2020 “To close the gap in achievement of learning outcomes, classroom transactions will shift, towards competency-based learning and education. The assessment tools (including assessment “as”, “of”, and “for” learning) will also be aligned with the learning outcomes, capabilities, and dispositions as specified for each subject of a given class.” Accordingly, National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) was set up in NCERT as an independent constituent unit vide Notification no. 1-4/2012-EC/ 101-164 of NCERT dated 8th Feb, 2023, to fulfil the basic objectives of setting norms, standards, guidelines and implement activities related to student assessment. Moreover, under Samagra Shiksha, States/UTs are supported by providing funds in the range of ₹ 10 to 20 lakh per district, depending on the size of the districts and states, for periodic assessments of students' academic progress from 3rd to 12th grades together with school evaluation. States/UTs use this fund for a variety of initiatives including State Level Achievement Surveys, School Based Assessment, and post-NAS activities.

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. 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 SwayamPrabha 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. The one class-one TV channel' programme of PM eVidya has been expanded from 12 to 200 TV channels. 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.
