

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO- 170
ANSWERED ON 07/08/2024**

Quality of primary education in rural India

170 Shri Imran Pratapgarhi:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) the major findings of the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023 concerning the quality of education in rural India;
- (b) the initiatives Government has undertaken to improve learning outcomes as indicated by the findings of the said Report;
- (c) the measures which are being implemented to enhance the infrastructure in rural schools, especially in regions identified as lacking in basic facilities; and
- (d) the steps Government has taken to improve teacher training and ensure an adequate teacher-student ratio in rural schools?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 170 FOR REPLY ON 07.08.2024 ASKED BY SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING "QUALITY OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN RURAL INDIA"

(a) to (d): The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is released by a non-governmental organization.

Education is a subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution and a majority of schools are under the administrative control of the respective State Government/UT administration. National Education Policy 2020 has been announced on 29.07.2020. The National Education Policy, 2020 has recommended a revamp of education in the country to make education more student-centric and multi-disciplinary. It aims to pave way for transformational reforms in school education systems in the country. For effective implementation of National Education Policy 2020, a number of initiatives have been taken by Ministry of Education.

In pursuance of the recommendation of the NEP 2020, National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) has been setup on **8th February 2023** by the **Ministry of Education under National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**.

Ministry of Education has been implementing a rolling programme of sample based National Achievement Survey (NAS) aimed at classes III, V, VIII and X with an interval of three years. The objective of NAS is to evaluate children's progress and learning competencies. It acts 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 has 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 Government and Private 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>.

On 03.11.2023, PARAKH has conducted State Educational Achievement Survey (SEAS) 2023. The primary objective of this survey is to evaluate the learning competencies of students in Foundational Literacy, Foundational Numeracy, Language and Mathematics at the end of each of the educational stages i.e. Foundational, Preparatory, and Middle. The SEAS-23 has included blocks in the sample to cover of students to understand the learning gaps at the block level, a strategic shift from district. Approximately 8.4 million students and 6 lakh teachers, of 4 lakh schools of 6416 educational blocks were assessed in SEAS-23.

Several initiatives have been taken up by the Ministry of Education for improving Learning Outcomes. NEP is the first education policy of the 21st century and founded on the five guiding pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability. NEP 2020 envisions a massive transformation in school education through– “an education system rooted in Indian ethos that contributes directly to transforming India, that is Bharat, sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society, by providing high quality education to all, thereby making India a global knowledge superpower.”

The key focus areas of NEP 2020 in the context of School Education are as follows:

- i. Ensuring Universal Access at All Levels of schooling from pre-primary school to Grade 12;
- ii. Ensuring quality early childhood care and education for all children between 3-6 years;
- iii. New Curricular and Pedagogical Structure (5+3+3+4);
- iv. No hard separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams;
- v. Establishing National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy;
- vi. Emphasis on promoting multilingualism and Indian languages; The medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be the home language/mother tongue/local language/regional language;
- vii. Setting up of a new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development);
- viii. Equitable and inclusive education - Special emphasis given on Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs);
- ix. Robust and transparent processes for recruitment of teachers and merit-based performance;
- x. Integration of Skill Education programs into mainstream education;

- xi. Ensuring availability of all resources through school complexes and clusters;
- xii. Setting up of State School Standards Authority (SSSA).

As a follow up of NEP 2020 and to provide the roadmap for the implementation of the vision of NEP 2020, National Curriculum Framework for the Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) and National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) have been developed. The overarching objectives of the NCFs is to help in positively transform the school education.

Few important focus areas of NCFs are: -

- i. The NCF-SE 2023 addresses the age group 3 to 18 years across the four Stages in the 5+3+3+4 Curricular and Pedagogical restructuring of School Education as envisioned in NEP 2020.
- ii. While emphasising on holistic development through Early Childhood Care and Education, NCF-FS provides roadmap to strengthen foundational literacy and numeracy skills.
- iii. It emphasises upon education in mother tongue and promotes multilingual education.
- iv. It is integrative and holistic with equal status to all subjects and learning domains from Mathematics to Sports.
- v. It integrates Skill Education in all stages; also, there is integration across subjects in all classes.
- vi. Equal emphasis on Arts and Physical Education and Health & Well-being right from the Foundational Stage with adequate time allocation for these subject areas from Grade 3 onwards.
- vii. It speaks directly to Teachers, practitioners, and syllabus and content developers through illustrations and examples from the field.

Implementation of NEP 2020 is a continuous process and its implementation requires multiple initiatives and actions, which are taken by concerned bodies/ stakeholders in a synchronized and systematic manner. In pursuance of the goals and objectives of the NEP 2020 and to assist States, UTs and other organisations, the Department of School Education & Literacy has developed an indicative and suggestive **NEP Implementation Plan for School Education, ‘Students’ and ‘Teachers’ Holistic Advancement through Quality Education (SARTHAQ)**’ and is available on the links mentioned below:

https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/SARTHAQ_Part-1_updated.pdf

https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/SARTHAQ_Part-2_updated.pdf

The Initiatives under NEP 2020 are:

- National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (**NIPUN BHARAT**) launched on 5th July 2021. All 36 States/UTs are implementing NIPUN-Bharat Mission. Under NIPUN, a 3 Months Play Based ‘School Preparation Module and Guidelines’ for Grade I named ‘Vidya Pravesh’ was launched on 29th July, 2021 which aims to promote school preparedness in all children coming to Grade- I from diverse backgrounds, to ensure a smooth transition of children to Grade-I.
- **4-year integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP)** has been notified by NCTE vide gazette notification dated 22.10.2021. For academic session 2024-25, 23 institutions have been recognized by NCTE for Phase 2 Piloting of ITEP.
- National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (**NCF FS**) launched on 20th October, 2022.
- Based on NCF, Learning Teaching Material (**Jadui Pitara**) and Textbooks for classes I and II launched on 20th February, 2023 and 5th July, 2023 respectively. **Digital version of the Jadui Pitara** also launched on 10th February, 2024.
- National Curriculum Framework for School Education (**NCF-SE**) released on 23rd August 2023. Textbooks for classes 3 and 6 for the academic year 2024-25 as per NCF-SE (2023) have been released.
- **PARAKH** (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) has been set up on 8th February, 2023, to fulfil the objectives of setting norms, standards, guidelines and implement activities related to student assessment.
- For Competency Based Assessment for Holistic Development, the **Holistic Progress Card (HPC)** for the Preparatory, Foundational, Middle and Secondary stage have been prepared and shared with all states and UTs.
- **National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST)** document that outlines the competencies that teachers should possess to effectively perform their roles released on 9th March 2024. NPST defines competencies of teachers at different stages/levels.
- **National Mission for Mentoring (NMM)- ‘Bluebook on NMM’ released on 9th March 2024-** talks about the creation of a large pool of outstanding professionals willing to provide mentoring to school teachers. The Bluebook on NMM contains the various modalities for mentoring of school teachers for enhancing their capacity building.
- Under **PM e-VIDYA, DIKSHA is the one nation, one digital education infrastructure.** All states/UTs have been onboarded on DIKSHA. This infrastructure is

also being utilized for creating Energized Textbooks (ETBs) and presently 422 ETBs of the NCERT and 6025 ETBs of States and UTs are published on DIKSHA. There are a total of 3,53,566 total e-contents available on DIKSHA and eContent is available in 84 Languages (77 Indian languages +7 Foreign Languages).

- The existing **12 DTH Channels of SWAYAM PRABHA for School Education** are meant to support and reach those who do not have access to the internet have been **extended to 200 channels** with more than 13,000 contents produced for telecast in 31 languages.
- The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasises using the child's mother tongue, home language, local language or regional language for teaching at all the stages of School education for harmonious growth of young learners in Schools. Primers enable young learners access to education in their mother tongue. Out of the 121 languages listed in the Census-2011 (including both scheduled and non-scheduled), bilingual primers for 79 scheduled and non-scheduled languages have been prepared and launched till date. These primers are available in digital format at <https://ncert.nic.in/primers.php>.
- **Samagra Shiksha**, an overarching programme extending from pre-school to class 12 aims for improving school effectiveness measured in terms of equal opportunities for schooling and equitable learning outcomes. The scheme is in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal for Education (SDG-4) and has been fully aligned with the recommendation of the National Education Policy 2020.
- **DIET- Centre of Excellence:** The NEP 2020 recognises the reinvigoration of DIETs to change the capacity and work culture of these institutions and develop them into vibrant institutions of excellence. Financial assistance under Samagra Shiksha is being provided to States/UTs for physical upgradation of all 613 functional DIETs in the country in a phased manner in the next five years. In the FY 2023-24, 125 DIETS across 33 States/UTs with an approximate budget of Rs. 92,320.18 Lakhs have been approved.
- Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (**PM POSHAN**) Scheme has been revamped and extended to cover students of Balvatika in addition to students of Classes I-VIII in Government and Government-Aided Schools. It encourages setting up of School Nutrition Gardens (SNG) and strengthening of community participation through '**Tithi Bhojan**'.
- **PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) scheme** launched on 07th Sep 2022. PM SHRI School is a centrally sponsored scheme by the Government of India which intends to prepare more than 14500 PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India) by strengthening the existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central Government/State/UT Government/local bodies.

Under the flagship CSS of Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to all the States and UTs, for upgradation/strengthening of infrastructure in all government schools including those in rural areas. The upgradation/ strengthening of schools includes provision for construction of additional class rooms, library, separate toilets for boys, girls and Children With Special Needs (CWSN), safe drinking water, electrification, Head Master room, office/ common room, Building as Learning Aid (BALA), playground, etc., as per requirement based on availability, adequacy and functionality of existing infrastructure.

From 2018-19 to 2023-24, 1389 new/upgraded school buildings, 1110 additional streams, 39,292 additional classrooms, 6003 Science Lab., 1198 Physics Lab., 1211 Chemistry Lab., 1259 Biology Lab., 3156 Computer Room, 4148 Libraries and 4321 Art/Craft/Culture room have been sanctioned in all Government Schools in Rural Area to the States/UTs.(Source: PRABANDH)

Ministry of Education has launched a National Mission to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme (NISHTHA – National Initiative for School Heads’ and Teachers’ Holistic Advancement) under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha in 2019-20. It is a capacity building programme for in-service teachers for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training". NISHTHA training has been extended to Secondary stage teachers and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for training of master trainers. Under this, the teachers are being oriented on various aspects related to Learning Outcomes, Competency Based Learning and Testing, Learner-centred Pedagogy, School Safety and Security, Personal-social qualities, Inclusive Education, ICT in teaching-learning including Artificial Intelligence, Health and well-being including yoga, new Initiatives in School Education including library, eco club, youth club, kitchen garden, School Leadership qualities, Environmental Concerns, Pre-school, Pre-vocational Education and School Based Assessment in a joyful learning manner. More than 65 lakh teachers have completed NISHTHA Trainings, of which 45 Lakhs+ have completed in e-Learning mode.

Additionally, financial assistance under Samagra Shiksha is provided to States and UTs for infrastructural up-gradation of all 613 functional District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) of the country in a phased manner so that DIETs can effectively function as Centres of Excellence for teachers’ training through innovative pedagogy, continuous professional development and ICT implementation. During the first phase, Rs. 92,320.18 Lakhs has been approved for up-gradation of 125 DIETs.

The recruitment, service conditions and deployment of teachers come under the purview of the respective State and Union Territory (UT) Government. The recruitment of teachers in schools is a continuous process and the vacancies keep arising due to retirement, resignation and additional requirements on account of enhanced students' strength/new schools. However, Ministry of Education advises the States and UT Governments for filling-up the vacant posts of teachers and their rational deployment, through Review meetings and advisories from time to time. Further, under Samagra Shiksha, Central Government provides assistance to the State Governments and UTs for additional teachers to maintain appropriate Pupil Teacher Ratio as per the prescribed norms for various levels of schooling. The State and UT- wise details of Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) for the Year 2021-22 is at **Annexure**.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 170 FOR REPLY ON 07.08.2024 ASKED BY SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING "QUALITY OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN RURAL INDIA"

Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) for the year 2021-22 - Rural

State/UT	Rural			
	Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	10	8	7	12
Andhra Pradesh	24	14	10	26
Arunachal Pradesh	11	8	10	15
Assam	21	14	12	22
Bihar	56	25	61	65
Chhattisgarh	21	19	16	17
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	27	25	17	23
Delhi	32	27	21	17
Goa	24	15	8	18
Gujarat	28	24	29	28
Haryana	27	19	12	14
Himachal Pradesh	15	8	6	10
Jammu & Kashmir	14	9	14	27
Jharkhand	30	27	38	58
Karnataka	21	16	17	24
Kerala	27	21	15	22
Ladakh	7	4	5	10
Lakshadweep	16	14	7	12
Madhya Pradesh	24	20	27	35
Maharashtra	22	25	20	35
Manipur	13	11	10	15
Meghalaya	20	13	11	17
Mizoram	15	7	8	11
Nagaland	9	6	8	16
Odisha	17	15	19	35
Puducherry	17	13	10	15
Punjab	24	18	10	17
Rajasthan	26	13	11	18
Sikkim	6	7	8	10
Tamil Nadu	20	14	12	20
Telangana	21	12	9	23
Tripura	17	18	13	16
Uttar Pradesh	28	26	29	41
Uttarakhand	18	15	10	15
West Bengal	27	29	19	32
India	26	20	18	27

Source: UDISE+ 2021-22
