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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1799
ANSWERED ON- 07/08/2024

Education in the State of Punjab

1799. Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu:

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

(a) the details of steps taken by Government to ensure and maintain the quality of school education and higher education in the country;

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to improve access to education across the country and outcomes achieved; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to promote/improve access to education in the State of Punjab?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) :   Education being a subject of concurrent list, majority of the schools / Higher Educational Institutions in the country falls in the purview of the State/UT Government.

In School Education, several initiatives have been taken by the Department of School Education & Literacy (DOSE&L) for maintaining the quality of education such as PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) for upgradation of schools; National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) for ensuring foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3; Vidya-Pravesh–Guidelines for Three- month Play-based School Preparation Module; PM e-VIDYA to unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable coherent multi-mode access to education, DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) as One Nation One Digital Platform having e- Books and e-Contents, launch of National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF FS) and Jadui Pitara /e jadui Pitara for play-based learning teaching material tailored for children between the age group of 3 to 8 years; PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development);

NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) Elementary Level, Secondary Level, Foundational Literacy & Numeracy and Early Childhood Care & Education; Vidya Samiksha Kendra; Integrated Teacher Education Programme; National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST); National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) for creating a unifying national digital infrastructure to energise and catalyse the education ecosystem, implementation of a scheme "New India Literacy Programme or ULLAS" targeting all non-literates age 15 years and above, etc.

Similarly, in Higher Education, various initiatives have been carried out by Department of Higher Education (DOHE) such as National Credit Framework (NCrF) and National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF) in conjunction with guidelines / regulations like Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programme; Multiple Entry and Exit in Academic Programme offered by Higher Education Institutions; Transforming HEIs into multi-disciplinary Institutions; pursuing two Academic Programme simultaneously; Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR ID) of individual student which is to act as lifelong identity to track their educational journey and achievements from, pre-primary to higher education; revised regulation of ODL / Online Education; permitting up to 40% credits in regular courses using SWAYAM platform; launch of new SWAYAM Plus portal with aim to enhance skill and upskilling and reskilling of existing manpower employed in different sectors; Integration of technology in administration of HEIs from admission to grant of degree through SAMARTH; guidelines on Professor of Practice to enable HEIs to work with industry experts; guidelines for supernumerary seats for admitting students from abroad in Indian HEIs and permitting HEIs for two admission cycles in an academic year; enhanced reputation of the Indian HEIs in international ranking; embedding of Indian Knowledge system in the education etc.

(b)& (c): Under Samagra Shiksha scheme of DoSE&L, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs, including State of Punjab, for undertaking various activities for Universalization of School Education including opening/strengthening of new schools upto senior secondary level, construction of school buildings & additional classrooms, setting up, up-gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, setting up and running of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas, under RTE act provision of free uniform/ text books to the eligible students at elementary level, transport allowance and undertaking enrolment & retention drives. Further, special training for age-appropriate admission of out of school children and residential as well as non-residential training for older children, seasonal hostels / residential camps, special training centres at worksites, are also supported to bring out of school children to the formal schooling system. Further, under the student-oriented component for the children with special needs, financial assistance is provided for identification and assessment of children with special needs, aids and appliances, Braille kits and books, appropriate teaching learning material and stipend to girl students with disability etc. Initiative of Government has increased GER in School Education. As per UDISE+ 2021-22, the GER for the primary has reached 104.8% in 2021-22, from 101.3% in 2018-19; the GER for the

upper primary has reached 94.7% in 2021-22, from 87.74% in 2018-19; the GER for the secondary has reached 79.6% in 2021-22, from 76.9% in 2018-19; and the GER for the higher secondary has reached 57.6% in 2021-22, from 50.14% in 2018-19. UDISE+ 2021-22, which is at:
https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/statistics/report_in_PDF/udise_21_22.pdf

Department of Higher Education has also taken various measures to improve access to higher education across the country, which inter- alia include Opening of more HEIs; various Scholarship and Fellowship schemes for providing financial assistance to students; allowing well performing HEIs (based on NAAC and NIRF ranking) by University Grants Commission (UGC) to offer full Open Distance Learning/Online Programmes based on quality parameters; providing much-needed flexibility and appropriate Exit as well Re-entry options in the Higher Education system, to facilitate students to choose their learning trajectory; providing anytime, anywhere learning opportunities for all learners through Study Webs for Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) platform, which provides high quality structured online courses in multiple disciplines; conducting JEE, NEET (UG) and Common University Entrance Test (CUET) Exams in 13 languages, to facilitate students and making available Text Books in Indian Languages   to facilitate students, particularly from vernacular/rural background.

Initiative of the Government has resulted in increase of GER in higher education to 28.4 in 2021-22 from 23.7 in 2014-15 [As per the All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22]. AISHE Report 2021-22, which is at:
https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s392049debbe566ca5782a3045cf300a3c/uploads/2024/02/20240719952688509.pdf

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