

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1790

ANSWERED ON- 11/12/2024

SAMAGRA SHIKSHA SCHEME

1790 Smt. Ranjeet Ranjan:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific measures taken by the Ministry under Samagra Shiksha Scheme to address the persistent learning gaps exposed during and after the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) the details of the steps taken by Government to integrate digital tools in areas with poor infrastructure;
- (c) the details of funds allocated and utilized under the said scheme;
- (d) the manner in which the scheme resolve issues like teacher shortages and inadequate training; and
- (e) whether Government has conducted any study to assess the scheme's impact and determine the extent to which it has reduced gender and socioeconomic disparities in enrolment and retention?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Due to COVID-19 pandemic, schools in States and Union Territories (UT) were closed as a precautionary measure to protect the students. This interrupted the learning of students across all levels. During the pandemic, Ministry of Education held several consultations with the States and UTs to assess the various aspects and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the closure of schools, pan-India students at all level suffered learning losses.

In order to mitigate the impact of challenges thrown by the COVID-19 pandemic on 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 & Literacy had issued detailed guidelines on 7th January 2021, on the steps to be taken by the States and UTs for 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, also, 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.

In addition, a comprehensive Learning Recovery Plan (LRP) during 2022-23 was shared with States/UTs to provide a multipronged & holistic approach to ensure that children receive suitable support. Under this, States/UTs were supported for various interventions including Learning Enhancement Programme (LEP), Teacher Resource Package (TRP), ICT facility to Block Resource Centers (BRCs), Strengthening of Clusters Resource Centers (CRCs), etc.

Ministry of Education, through its centrally sponsored scheme Samagra Shiksha, implements ICT and Digital Initiatives component to enhance digital learning in Government and Government aided schools across the country. The initiatives aim to enhance the quality of education by integrating technology into teaching and learning processes.

Under this component, financial assistance for recurring and non-recurring interventions is provided for establishing ICT Lab and Smart Classrooms in schools as per the options and norms available under the Samagra Shiksha scheme.

A comprehensive initiative PM eVIDYA which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education was used extensively during the COVID period for education of children. The initiative includes the following components:

- Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (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)
- PM e-Vidya initiative includes all forms of digital modes to provide wide access- DIKSHA (online), SWAYAM (online), SWAYAM PRABHA (TV), DTH TV channel per class from 1 to 12 and other TV Channels including use of Doordarshan and AIR Networks.
- 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) was not available, Ministry of Education took many initiatives like organizing Community Radio Stations, a podcast called Shiksha Vani of CBSE, Textbooks & worksheets were supplied to residence of learners, Handbook on 21st Century Skills were issued and community/mohalla classes were organized. Innovation Funds of the Department were used to set up mobile school, virtual studios, virtual class rooms in schools, Continuous Learning Plan (CLP) were initiated in all States/UTs and preloaded tablets under Samagra Shiksha were effectively used in remote/rural areas in various states and UTs, where online classes were difficult.

Further, Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the administrative domain of respective State and UT Governments.

(c): The details of the central share released to States/UTs under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan since 2018-19 is as under:

(₹ in crore)

Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Central Release	29,294.24	32,326.82	27,758.52	24,873.18	32,151.94	32,325.18
Expenditure*	44,834.84	46,566.57	45,327.23	43,561.83	51,958.54	56,417.63

*Includes Central share, State share and other receipts received by the States/UTs.

Source: PRABANDH

(d): Education is a subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of schools are under the administrative control of respective State and Union Territory Governments.

Further, recruitment of teachers in schools is a continuous process as vacancies keep arising due to factors like retirement, resignation and additional requirements on account of enhanced students' strength/new schools and the onus of filling up of these posts, falls on the respective State/Union Territory Governments. Under the integrated centrally sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, financial support for the salary of teachers as per programmatic and financial norms of the scheme is provided.

As per the recommendations of NEP 2020, in order to implement the reforms envisaged in NEP-2020 for Teacher Education and to prepare teachers to face the new

challenges, an Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) has been launched. School experience and internships are the most significant components of the ITEP curriculum and are an integral part of the education and training of teachers.

Also, this Department launched in 2019-20 a National Mission to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme called NISHTHA – National Initiative for School Heads’ and Teachers’ Holistic Advancement, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha. NISHTHA is a capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training". NISHTHA training has been extended to secondary level teachers and to Foundational Literacy and Numeracy and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for training of master trainers.

(e): The Gross Enrollment Ratio for Girls and SC, ST Students and Retention Rate for Girls from 2018-19 to 2021-22 at Elementary level is as under:

Year	Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER)*		
	Girls	SC Students	ST Students
2018-19	96.7	105.3	101.6
2019-20	98.7	107.1	102.1
2020-21	100	108.6	102.7
2021-22	101.1	109.7	103.4
Source: UDISE+ of respective years,		*Overall management	

Year	Retention Rate* (Girls)
2018-19	71.89
2019-20	75.49
2020-21	82.24
2021-22	82.06
Source: UDISE+ of respective years,	
*Overall management	
