

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1792
ANSWERED ON 11/12/2024

Nipun Bharat

1792. **Shri Narhari Amin:**

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

- (a) the key objectives and focus areas of the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN) Bharat launched by Government in July, 2021;
- (b) the manner in which it contributed to the goals set by the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020;
- (c) whether Foundational Literacy and Numeracy or Nipun Bharat Mission has been given prime importance as per the NEP, 2020; and
- (d) whether it has been showcased internationally, specially in G20?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L) is implementing an integrated centrally sponsored scheme for School Education- Samagra Shiksha since 2018-19. The scheme of Samagra Shiksha has been aligned with National Education Policy, 2020 with focus on improving the quality of education through various measures such as introduction of new pedagogical and curricular structure (5+3+3+4), Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), among others and covers the entire continuum of Education from 3 years of Balvatika (preschool) to class 12. It is the first time that the age group of 3-6 years has been included in the school continuum in foundational stage in 5+3+3+4 structure consisting of 3 years of Balvatika and Grade 1 & 2.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in Para 2.1 of the NEP 2020 states “The ability to read and write, and perform basic operations with numbers, is a necessary foundation and an indispensable prerequisite for all future schooling and lifelong learning.”

Para 2.2 of the NEP 2020 states “Attaining foundational literacy and numeracy for all children will thus become an urgent national mission, with immediate measures to be taken on many fronts and with clear goals that will be attained in the short term (including that every student will attain foundational literacy and numeracy by Grade 3). The highest priority of the education system will be to achieve universal foundational literacy and numeracy in primary school by 2025.”.

Towards this end, the Government has launched a National Mission called “National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)” on 5th July 2021. The mission aims to ensure that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 2. This Mission has been set up under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha- an integrated scheme for School Education. Under Samagra Shiksha, all 36 States/Union Territories are implementing NIPUN-Bharat Mission.

The National Education Policy (NEP 2020) emphasizes on developing the relevant concepts and attaining requisite competencies to facilitate optimal learning when children start schooling. Keeping in focus the holistic development, a 3 Months Play Based ‘School Preparation Module and Guidelines’ for Grade I named ‘Vidya Pravesh’ was launched on 29th July, 2021. The goal of Vidya Pravesh programme is to promote school preparedness in all children coming to Grade- I from diverse backgrounds, to ensure a smooth transition of children to Grade-I, to provide play based, age and developmentally appropriate learning experiences in a joyful and stimulating environment leading to holistic development. The 12-week module contains developmentally appropriate instructions for the children entering Grade 1 to bolster a child’s pre-literacy, pre-numeracy, cognitive and social skills. All States/UTs are implementing Vidya Pravesh programme.

To improve the Learning Outcomes in Foundational Stage (3 years of Balvatika and Grade 1 & 2), the National Curricular Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) was released on 20th October, 2022 providing a structure for the syllabus, Training of Teachers, Learning Teaching Material (LTM), etc. Accordingly, Jaadui Pitara for Balvatika (3 years of preschool) and Books for Grades 1 & 2 have been provided by NCERT for use by States/UTs.

Jaadui Pitara -a Collection of learning- teaching material for 3 to 6 years age group has been developed and launched on 20th February, 2023. The Jaadui Pitara is a box having 53 Learning Teaching Materials (LTM) for the foundational stage. It has toys, games, puzzles, puppets, posters, flashcards, story cards, play book set for students, and handbooks for teachers.

The e-Jaadui Pitara (e-JP) was launched on 10th February 2024. The e-JP is an app and website with integration of the latest technology with play-based pedagogy and a way to disseminate the learning of Jaadui Pitara and transcend it beyond the four walls of the classroom.

(d): Yes, Sir. One of the four themes of G-20 Education Working Group (EdWG) 2023 was “Ensuring Foundation Literacy and Numeracy, especially in the context of Blended Learning”. The key initiatives as best practices for foundational learning have been shared during all four G-20 EdWG meetings related to the Nipun Bharat Mission.

- An International Seminar in the 4th EdWG meeting was held in Pune. More than 900 participants, including G20 Foreign Delegates, Representatives of States and UTs, Educationists, Government of India officials etc had participated in this Seminar.
- The 4th EdWG Meeting on FLN was held from 20th -22nd June, 2023 in Pune. 85 Delegates from G-20 Countries had attended the 4th EdWG meeting.
- As a precursor to G-20 event in Pune, the Janbhagidari events on generating awareness about FLN, NIPUN Bharat Mission & G-20 were held across the country. More than 5.25 Crores stakeholders such as parents, children, teachers and community members etc. have participated in these nationwide events.
- An exhibition was held from 17th -22nd June, 2023 in Pune on the theme “Ensuring Foundation Literacy and Numeracy, especially in the context of Blended Learning”. More than 1.5 lakh parents, students, teachers, and G-20 Foreign delegates from various countries had participated in this exhibition.
