

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2929
ANSWERED ON 26/03/2025

Foundational learning crisis

2929 Ms. Dola Sen:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), 2024 highlighting significant gaps in foundational literacy;
- (b) the specific measures being implemented under NIPUN Bharat to address these learning gaps;
- (c) whether any revision of early education curriculum is being considered based on these findings; and
- (d) the timeline for achieving the foundational literacy targets set under NEP, 2020?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d): The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education has launched a National Mission called “National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)” on 5th July, 2021 for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 2 by 2026. All 36 States/Union Territories are implementing NIPUN-Bharat Mission.

The NEP 2020 emphasizes on developing 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 (Balvatika, AWCs, at home, private play schools etc.), to ensure a smooth transition of children to Grade-I. It provides play based, age and developmentally appropriate learning experiences in a joyful and stimulating environment leading to holistic development to bolster a child’s pre-literacy, pre-numeracy, cognitive and social skills.

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 play and activity based textbooks for Grades 1 and 2 have been prepared and shared with States/UTs (Hindi- “Sarangi”, English-“Mridang”, “Mathematics- Joyful-Mathematics and Anandmay-Ganit” and Urdu- “Shahnai”) fulfilling NEP 2020 and NCF-FS (National Curricular Framework for Foundational Stage) recommendations.

Jaadui Pitara (JP), a collection of Learning Teaching Material (LTM) for 3 to 6 years age group was launched on 20th February, 2023. It is a box having 53 LTM for the foundational stage like toys, games, puzzles, puppets, posters, flashcards, story cards, play book set for students, and handbooks for teachers. The user manual and all the activity cards, picture reading posters, story cards, and instructions of JP have been translated into 22 languages. It is a giant leap towards enriching the learning-teaching environment and making it more child-centric, lively, and joyful as envisioned in the NEP 2020. It also consists of a Trainer’s Handbook ‘Unmukh’ which is a comprehensive guide for the trainers which has an activity bank for 3–6-year-old children which is mapped to PanchkoshiyaVikas and curricular goals of NCF-FS for future training of teachers at Foundational Stage. The Activity Book ‘Anand’ contains integrated worksheets to be used by children.

The e-JaaduiPitara (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 JP and transcend it beyond the four walls of the classroom.

Primers have been developed in 104 local languages for FLN learning in mother tongue. These are languages spoken by at least 10000 population.

To evaluate children’s progress and learning competencies, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) has been setup under National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) by the DoSE&L. It 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 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.

Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L), Ministry of Education has also been implementing a rolling programme of sample based National Achievement Survey (NAS). It acts as an indicator of the health of the education system, so as to take appropriate steps for remedial actions at different levels. 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>.

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is released by a Non-Governmental Organization.
