

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3562
ANSWERED ON 02/04/2025

Universal Foundational Literacy and Numeracy

3562. Shri Tiruchi Siva:

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

- (a) whether Government intends to conduct a periodic district-wise assessment mechanism under NIPUN Bharat to evaluate disparity in progress towards the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) goals;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government plan to raise awareness programmes, resources to engage parents in literacy and numeracy efforts at home?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b) As per the recommendation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, a dedicated mission 'National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy' (NIPUN) Bharat Mission was launched by the Government of India on 5th July 2021, for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by 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.

To evaluate children's progress and learning competencies, Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSE&L), 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. 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-2021 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>.

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 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.

The latest round of NAS, the PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024 was conducted on December 4, 2024 by the National Assessment Centre, PARAKH under the aegis of the Ministry of Education. This survey marks a significant advancement in India's assessment framework, aligning with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasizes competency-based learning and assessment reforms. The survey was designed to provide a detailed, granular understanding of student learning, at the end of Foundational, Preparatory and Middle stages, across different socio-economic backgrounds and regional contexts, ensuring that educational policies are data-driven and targeted towards equitable learning improvements. With participation of 74000 Schools, 2.70 lakh teachers and 21 lakh students from Government, Aided and Private Schools, the survey's data collection and analysis are expected to yield significant insights into student learning competencies and the effectiveness of various interventions undertaken at the District, State and National levels. The findings will contribute to refining teacher training programs, curriculum reforms and state-specific strategies to bridge learning gaps.

The Holistic Progress Card (HPC) has been introduced as a formative assessment tool to provide a multidimensional view of student progress. It goes beyond academics to include co-curricular and socio-emotional development. Insights from these assessments guide evidence-based interventions, ensuring uniform progress across all regions.

(c) The Government of India actively promotes awareness programs and has developed a range of resources to engage parents in literacy and numeracy efforts at home. Following are the few such awareness programmes/resources:

- 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-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 JP and transcend it beyond the four walls of the classroom. These are resources for parents to engage with children using toy based pedagogy.
- As a precursor to 4th G-20 Education Working Group (EdWG) meeting held in Pune, in June, 2023, the Janbhagidari events on generating awareness about FLN and NIPUN Bharat Mission were held across the country. More than 5.25 crores stakeholders such as parents, children, teachers and community members etc. had participated in these nationwide events.
- Shiksha Saptah, a week-long celebration was organized from 22nd July 2024 to 28th July 2024, marking the 4th anniversary of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The 2nd day of Saptah was dedicated to FLN and emphasized on the critical role of FLN in early childhood education. Activities included interactive sessions for teachers, parents, and caregivers, showcasing successful FLN programs and best practices to ensure every child attains essential literacy and numeracy skills by the end of Grade 2 by 2026.
- Initiatives such as 'Vidya Pravesh - 3 months Play Based 'School Preparation Module and Guidelines' program for school readiness, the 'Balvatika' framework for Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE), and the dissemination of FLN toolkits for parents aim to foster a collaborative approach to learning. Also, the digital platforms like Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) provide accessible, interactive learning resources to support home-based literacy and numeracy efforts.
- The implementation of the Holistic Progress Card (<https://ncert.nic.in/parakh/hpc.php?ln=en>) further encourages parental involvement in understanding their child's comprehensive learning journey.
