

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2908
ANSWERED ON – 18/03/2026

NIPUN Bharat and NEP

2908 **Shri Sanjay Seth:**

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

- (a) the progress made in operationalising PM SHRI schools to reflect NEP-aligned reforms, details thereof;
- (b) whether States have benefited from NIPUN Bharat in strengthening foundational literacy and numeracy, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) how digital learning infrastructure under PM e-Vidya is supporting blended learning in rural and urban schools, details thereof; and
- (d) to what extent teacher training programmes have been strengthened to promote multidisciplinary pedagogy, details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) is a centrally sponsored scheme which aims to strengthen more than 14,500 schools across the country out of which 13,091 schools have been selected as PM SHRI schools from 33 States/UTs along with KVS/NVS/NCERT. These schools are to showcase all the initiatives of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, be the exemplar schools, and also offer benchmarking leadership to other schools in the neighbourhood. So far, a total of 34 States/UTs have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement the scheme and only 2 States are yet to sign the MoU which are Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

In alignment with the National Education Policy, 2020, PM SHRI scheme has a provision to saturate PM SHRI schools across the country with 21 NEP components such as computer lab/ICT lab/smart classrooms, library with good furniture, internet facility, vocational skill education, guidance and career counselling, fully equipped integrated science lab/physics lab/chemistry lab/biology lab, playground with well-equipped sports facilities, school innovation council, youth and eco club for mission life, Building as Learning Aid (BaLa) features and jaadui pitara for primary school children, 10 bagless days for students, child tracking software for tracking the children attendance, fully functioning handwashing facility and toilets, green school features etc. So far, PM SHRI schools have achieved 92.03% saturation under above mentioned components.

(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.

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. The primary objective of this survey is to evaluate the learning competencies of students in Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), Language and Mathematics at the end of each of the educational stages i.e. Foundational, Preparatory, and Middle.

The latest PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 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.

A comparative analysis of State-wise average scores at foundational stage during NAS 2021 and PRS 2024 reflects that there is a stable or upward trends from 2021 to 2024, reflecting the depth and impact of NIPUN Bharat Mission.

There is an improvement in learning achievements of the students reflecting the success of NIPUN Bharat Mission across the country. It also shows that the performance of children in Grade 3 in rural and government schools is better than urban and private schools, indicating clear improvement in learning outcomes from previous survey. This can be accessed at <https://dashboard.parakh.ncert.gov.in/en>.

(c): Education is part of the Concurrent List of the Constitution and most of the Government schools are under the administration of the State Government and its bodies. The Ministry of Education implements ICT and Digital initiatives under Samagra Shiksha to enhance digital learning in Government schools across the country. The initiatives aim to enhance the quality of education by integrating technology into teaching and learning processes. Under the initiatives, funds are provided for setting up ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms according to the requirements of the State submitted in the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B).

A comprehensive initiative called PM eVidya was initiated as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan on 17th May, 2020, which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education across the country. States/UTs collaborate with NCERT to utilise, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these initiatives as per their requirements. NCERT also provides regular guidance/ feedback to States/UTs on the quality of these initiatives. The key components of PM eVidya are also aligned towards enhancing digital literacy and include 200 DTH TV channels.

(d): Strengthening of teacher training/education programmes is supported under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha in alignment with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

Financial provision is provided under this scheme as per State-specific proposals inter-alia for in-service training of teachers, school heads, subject teachers, resource persons, master trainers, education administrators, teacher educators, key resource persons, and induction training of newly recruited teachers including those in rural and remote areas at elementary and secondary levels through SCERTs and DIETs, as the nodal agencies.

Under Samagra Shiksha, teacher capacity building for digital education is being supported through the **DIKSHA** platform, which provides e-content and digital learning resources. The Department has also implemented **NISHTHA** (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) as an integrated teacher training programme on DIKSHA, which includes modules related to the use of ICT and technology in teaching and learning. Further, NCERT, SCERTs, DIETs, BRCs and CRCs undertake development of resource material, digital content, training programmes and workshops to strengthen teachers' preparedness for digital education.

NCTE has notified ITEP, a 4-year integrated dual-major bachelor degree in Education as well as a specialized subject in arts, science, physical education etc. for pre-service teachers. Being digitally literate and skilled to leverage technology for improving teaching-learning and assessment processes is one of the capacities sought to be developed by all student-teachers under ITEP.
