

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3078
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31st December, 2018**

Learning Skills

3078. SHRI MATI KIRRON KHER:

Will the **Minister** of **HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government to enhance foundational learning at the school level;
- (b) whether the Government is contemplating technology aided examination systems at the school level that enable students to take and retake exams and whether such a system holds the potential to reduce drop-out levels;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is contemplating any reforms for the governance mechanisms in the school education system to separate the functions of policy making, regulation and provision; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. SATYA PAL SINGH)**

(a) The 'Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat' (PBBB) is a sub-programme of erstwhile Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) which is continued under the new integrated scheme Samagra Shiksha to ensure quality at the foundational years of schooling. The objectives of the programme are to promote early reading and writing with comprehension skills in children, and also basic numeracy skills. States/ UTs are implementing PBBB in their respective States/UTs using multiple strategies and approaches. These include adoption of NCERT model of early reading, provision of supplementary reading material, development of State specific models for early Maths and early reading, collaboration with organizations like UNICEF etc.

Central Government has taken various steps towards the implementation of the programme of P BBB, which inter-alia, include preparation of special bridge materials for States having a high tribal population; provisioning of free textbooks, development and procurement of supplementary reading material; in-service teacher training; having dedicated teachers for foundational classes and maintaining the required Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) as prescribed under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

Under the Samagra Shiksha, an annual grant of Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 20,000/- per school for strengthening of school Library has been provisioned in order to complement the activities under Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat (P BBB) and inculcate the reading habits among students of all ages, strengthening of school libraries including purchase of books by providing grant for libraries in government schools.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) have developed minimum class-wise, subject-wise Learning Outcomes for all classes from I-VIII in all subject areas. Learning outcomes are assessment standards indicating the expected levels of learning that children should achieve for that class. These indicators can be used as check points to assess learning at different points of time. The Learning Outcomes for each class at elementary stage in Languages (Hindi, English and Urdu), Mathematics, Environmental Studies, Science and Social Science have been finalized and shared with all States and UTs.

(b) & (c): No such proposal is under consideration at this stage.

(d) & (e): Education is a subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the school in the country are under the administrative control of the State Government and UT Administrations. Under Section 23 (1) of the RTE Act, 2009, Central Government has notified National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) as an academic authority to lay down minimum qualifications for appointment as a teacher. Accordingly, NCTE has prescribed the minimum qualifications for appointment as a teacher in its extant regulations as amended from time to time.

Further, National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 developed by the NCERT provides the broad framework for school curriculum development. As per Section 29 of Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 the State Academic Authority is responsible for designing the curriculum and evaluation framework. All States/UTs have either adopted textbooks developed by the NCERT or revised their textbooks in accordance with the provisions of NCF.
