

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3186  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.12.2018**

**Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)**

**3186. SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT:**

**SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:**

**SHRI R. DHRUVA NARAYANA:**

**SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKER:**

**SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government is going to start three new Professional courses with an aim to reduce curriculum overload and if so, the details thereof along with the salient points of the Course;
- (b) whether it is likely to reduce the curriculum overload and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Government is going to conduct tests like the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) which evaluates school students scholastic performance in Math's, Science and Reading and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): The National Curriculum Framework (NCF)-2005 brought out by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) addresses the issue related to curriculum load keeping in view the Yash Pal Committee Report (1993) titled 'Learning Without Burden'. This report points out that the pernicious burden of non-comprehension needs more attention. The NCF states that 'Heavy School Bags' is the common source of physical discomfort due to heavy encyclopedic types of information loaded textbooks. To overcome this problem, NCF emphasizes upon shifting learning away from rote methods, connecting knowledge to life outside school, enriching the curriculum to provide for overall development of children rather than remain textbook centric, and making examination more flexible and integrated to classroom life.

(c): Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA) is a triennial international survey that aims to evaluate education systems worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15 years old students in Mathematics, science and Reading. India participated in PISA in 2009 only through schools in two States, i.e Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh.

India has developed its own student assessment system called the National Achievement Survey (NAS), which is independently conducted by NCERT across the country. The NAS 2017 was conducted on 13th November, 2017 through which the learning levels of around 22 lakh students of Classes III, V and VIII from 1.10 lakh schools across 701 districts in all 36 States and UTs were assessed. This competency based assessment was based on the Learning Outcomes developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for all subjects from Grades I to VIII. The Students of Classes III and V are assessed on Reading Comprehension, Mathematics and Environmental Studies and Class VIII students are assessed on Language, Maths, Science and Social Science. District report cards for NAS 2017 have been released and are available on MHRD website. These contain various sections, including indicating the lowest performing area in Learning Outcomes to enable States to identify learning gaps and take steps to improve the learning outcomes based on the same.

Similarly, National Achievement Survey for Class X was also conducted throughout the country on February 05, 2018 in government, government aided and private schools. The learning levels of 1.5 million students in 44,304 schools across 610 districts in 34 States and UTs were assessed, in 5 subject areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science and Modern Indian Language (MIL).

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