

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4281
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.01.2019**

Annual Survey of Education Report (ASER)

4281. DR. KAMBHAMPATI HARIBABU:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to access the causes of such low learning levels in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the steps being taken/considered to be taken to reverse the trend; and
- (c) whether the Government plans to harness digital means to increase the learning outcome in the Government primary schools in rural parts of the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Achievement surveys are released in the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) by a non-governmental organization. It is a household survey limited to rural areas of the country. The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) is not associated with this survey.

To monitor improvement in children's learning levels and to periodically assess the health of the government education system as a whole, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been periodically conducting National Achievement Surveys (NAS) since 2001. NCERT conducted NAS 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. 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).

District report cards for NAS have been released by this Department and are available on MHRD/NCERT website. These cards 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.

NCERT is facilitating States and UTs for post NAS activities to improve the learning level of students in the districts which includes community participation, teacher training in Assessment, use of Science and Mathematics Kits developed by NCERT, State Text book analysis, use of Early language kit and Early Mathematics kit developed by NCERT, training in child friendly assessment practices for teachers etc.

The short terms actions include sharing of findings with State level officers, and DIET functionaries in regional workshops and Understanding of the learning gaps in the Districts by the State functionaries. The medium term goal for NAS includes Sharing of findings of NAS with BRCs, teachers, head teachers, parents, SMC members and other stakeholders, orientation of BRCs, CRCs and teachers on evolving learning strategies to enhance learning outcomes at different grade levels, facilitating teachers in using alternative instructional strategies to bridge the learning gaps with the support of State functionaries seeking support from community to improve the learning levels.

During 2018-19 many modules for the post NAS interventions have been initiated which includes understanding the district report cards, pedagogical inputs to target the learning outcomes, school based assessment, promoting experiential learning, sports and art integrated education and improving community participation.

Under Samagra Shiksha, various interventions such as Science fair/Exhibition and Talent Search at district level; mathematics and science kits to schools, visit to higher institution of students and learning enhancement of students are also approved. Some of the ICT initiatives i.e. e-pathshala, National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER), have been taken for improving quality of education. 'e-pathshala' is another platform which contains e-resource for the students and teachers. The e-resources for students include e-books for all subjects from classes I to XII, e-contents (i.e. audio, video, interactive object, text images, maps), question banks, e-courses in various subjects etc. All the above mentioned quality interventions are provided at par to schools of rural and urban area.

In order to increase focus on quality of elementary education, the Central rules to the RTE Act, 2009 have been amended on 20th February, 2017 to include reference on class-wise, subject-wise Learning Outcomes. The Learning Outcomes for each class in Languages (Hindi, English and Urdu), Mathematics, Environmental Studies, Science and Social Science up to the elementary stage have, accordingly, been finalized and shared with all States and UTs. Learning outcomes have been translated in different languages and serve as a benchmark for student's capabilities to be achieved in each subject & class.
