

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1773
ANSWERED ON 13.02.2023

Home-Based Education System for Specially-abled Children under NEP 2020

1773. SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any audit of the Home-Based Education (HBE) system for specially-abled children under National Education Policy, 2020;
- (b) if so, the details of the audit, State/UT-wise especially in Satna, Madhya Pradesh;
- (c) whether the Government has taken or propose to take cognizance about the challenges faced by block-level special educators under HBE; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken to address these challenges as of now?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) & (b) Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under domain of respective State and UT Governments. Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education has launched an overarching programme for the school education sector - Samagra Shiksha Scheme. Under Samagra Shiksha, there is a dedicated component for Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs (IE for CwSN), to ensure full equity and inclusion such that all children with special needs are able to fully participate in schools. The scheme aims to look at education of CwSN in a continuum from pre-school to class XII. The scheme covers all CwSN with one or more disabilities as mentioned in the Schedule of disabilities of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. The Samagra Shiksha Scheme is being implemented through State Governments/ UT Administrations and the Central Government provides necessary financial support for the same.

Through the Inclusive Education for CwSN component, various provisions are made available for CwSN such as identification and assessment camps at block level to identify the children with special needs and students requiring Home based Education. Funding support of Rs.10,000/- per block per annum is provided for conducting assessment camps at Elementary level and Secondary level separately. In addition, student specific interventions support @ Rs.3,500/- per CwSN per annum is provided for aids, appliances, assistive devices, teaching-learning materials, Braille books, large print books for visually impaired children, transportation, escort, scribe allowances as well as for home based education for children with severe & multiple disabilities who are unable to attend school. Further, individualized support is also provided through resource centres at block level to cater to the unique learning needs of CwSN.

(c) & (d) In order to ensure that every student including those residing in rural and educationally backward districts of the country, gets continuous access to education, a multi-pronged approach has been adopted by the Dept. of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education. Government has launched PM e-Vidya program which seeks to leverage all available technologies such as radio, TV, internet to take learning to the doorsteps of the children. It has following components:

- i. e-Content for Divyang children: Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/ YouTube.
- ii. DIKSHA- One Nation, one digital platform- the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in States/UTs and QR coded energized textbooks for all grades.
- iii. one class, one channel – telecast of explanation videos through 12 PM eVidya DTH TV channels
- iv. broadcast of educational contents through more than 400 radio stations

Where the digital facility (mobile device/DTH television) is not available, Ministry of Education has taken many initiatives like Community Radio Stations and a podcast called ShikshaVani of CBSE, Textbooks, worksheet supplied to residence of learners, community/mohalla classes are organized. Innovation Funds under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan are used to set up mobile school, virtual studios, virtual class rooms in schools. Continuous Learning Plan (CLP) for states/UTs has been initiated in all States/UTs, pre-loaded tablets in various states and UTs are effectively used in remote rural areas where online classes are difficult.

Further, an Alternate Academic Calendar has been prepared for learning solutions including self-assessment for grade 1 to 12 for both children with and without device. Bridge Course Modules have also been developed for bridging the learning gaps of Out of School children studying in special training centres (STC) under the provisions of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. Also, PRAGYATA guidelines were issued to the States/UTs to facilitate continued education through various modes. The guidelines inter-alia include situation where internet connectivity is not available or available with very less bandwidth, resources are shared through various platforms like television, radio etc. that do not depend on internet. Guidelines for development of e-content for Children with Special Needs were released in 2021. The guidelines for “Parent Participation in Home-based Learning during School closure and beyond” (https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/MoE_Home_Learning_Guidelines.pdf) were released in 2021.
