

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1967**  
ANSWERED ON 13.03.2023

**Challenges Faced by Children with Chronic Illness in Accessing Education**

1967. SHRI RANJEETSINGH NAIK NIMBALKAR:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken into cognizance the challenges faced by children with chronic illness in accessing education;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government to address these challenges;
- (c) whether the National Education Policy has the guidelines to ensure quality education for these children;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has undertaken steps to provide virtual infrastructure for inclusion of these children in the mainstream;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, whether the Government plans to do the same?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) & (b) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha launched in 2018-19, has dedicated Inclusive Education component for the education of Children with Special Needs (CwSN) covering 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 including disability caused due to chronic neurological conditions such as multiple sclerosis, parkinson's disease. It aims to look at education of CwSN in a continuum from Pre-Nursery to Class XII studying in Government, Government-aided and local body schools.

(c) & (d) The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 advocates full equity and inclusion as the cornerstone of education to ensure that all students are able to thrive in the education system. It also underscores within its framework, education of children with special needs in order to ensure equitable quality schooling. The Samagra Shiksha scheme has also been aligned with the recommendations of NEP 2020 to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment in schools.

(e) to (g) Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under domain of respective State and UT Governments. However, 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 Department 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.

Where the digital facility (mobile device/DTH television) is not available, Ministry of Education has taken many initiatives like Community Radio Stations, a podcast called Shiksha Vani of CBSE, Textbooks& worksheets to residence of learners and organizing community/mohalla classes. 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 and pre-loaded tablets are effectively used in remote rural areas of States/UTs where online classes are difficult.

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. Similarly, Students Learning Enhancement Guidelines were released in 2020 to support learning of children during COVID-19. Guidelines for development of e-content for Children with Special Needs were released in 2021. Guidelines for Parent Participation in Home-based learning during school closure and beyond were released in 2021.

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