

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3208**

ANSWERED ON 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2023

**Improvement in School Education under RTE**

†3208. KUNWAR DANISH ALI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the pace of improvement in school standards under Right to Education like toilet, drinking water, mid-day meal, library, computer, electricity connection in schools across the country is very slow;
- (b) whether a quarter (23.9 per cent) of schools do not even have access to drinking water and in approximately a quarter of schools (23.6 percent) students are unable to use toilet facilities;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d): The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education is implementing Samagra Shiksha from 2018-19 to support States and UTs for strengthening of existing government schools and for creation and augmentation of infrastructure facilities based on the gaps determined from Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+) and proposals received from respective State/UT. The need for schools and also the infrastructural facilities in schools are worked out every year by the respective State/Union Territory on incremental basis depending on their need and priority and reflected in their Annual Work plan & Budget (AWP&B). These plans are then appraised and approved/estimated by the Project Approval Board (PAB) in the Department of School Education & Literacy in consultation with the States and UTs.

Education is in the Concurrent list of Constitution and most of the schools come under jurisdiction of concerned States and UTs. State and UT Governments are the appropriate Governments under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, and have the responsibility and mandate to provide school infrastructure in schools in accordance with the norms laid down in the Schedule to the RTE Act, 2009 and as per respective State RTE Rules. States and UTs have been repeatedly advised to ensure that all the schools in their jurisdiction should have provision for separate toilets for boys and girls and safe and adequate drinking water facilities for all children.

Further, the Department of School Education & Literacy has approved a project on Rejuvenation of Basic Infrastructure in approximately 1.20 lakh Government schools across the country with an overall budget estimate of Rs. 4590 crore under Samagra Shiksha scheme. The interventions covered under the project are major/minor repairs, functional toilets (boys/girls), electricity connections, functional drinking water facility and boundary walls.

The percentage of Government Elementary schools in the country having infrastructure facilities is shown below:-

Boys toilet	Girls toilet	Drinking Water	Library/Book bank/Reading Corner
95.7	97.3	98.2	91.4

Source:- UDISE+ 2021-22

Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) is one of the foremost rights based Centrally Sponsored Schemes under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA). The Scheme covers about 12.21 crore children studying in Bal Vatika and Classes I-VIII in 10.84 lakh Government and Government-Aided schools.

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