

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2792
ANSWERED ON 7th AUGUST, 2023**

Uniform Primary Education in Rural Areas

2792. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to implement the principle of equity in primary education in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to prepare an action plan to strengthen the infrastructure and quality of primary education in rural areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a) and (b): Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the schools come under the purview of the respective State and UT Governments. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for access to elementary schools for children of the age group of 6-14 years, within the defined area or limits of neighbourhood. Section 6 of the Act provides that the appropriate government and local authorities shall establish, within the area or limits of a neighbourhood, a school, where it is not already established, within a period of three years from the commencement of the Act.

In pursuance to Section 6 of the Act, the Central RTE Rules has notified the area or limits of neighbourhood as one kilometre, within which a primary school and 3 kilometre within which an upper primary school, has to be established.

The Government of India launched Samagra Shiksha - an Integrated Scheme for school education, w.e.f 2018-19, as an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII, which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education, across the country. The scheme provides support to States and UTs for strengthening of infrastructure in schools, universal access, bringing gender equality, promoting inclusive education, quality of education, financial support for teachers' salary, digital initiatives, entitlements under the RTE Act, 2009 including uniforms and textbooks, preschool education, vocational education, sports and physical education and strengthening of teacher education institutions. The scheme has also been aligned with the recommendations of National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which should take care of diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.

(c) to (e): 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. Under Samagra Shiksha, the States and UTs are supported 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 UDISE + data includes all school located in both rural and urban areas across the country. 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.
