

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2862
ANSWERED ON – 07/08/2023

DROP IN READING ABILITY AMONG SCHOOL GOING CHILDREN

2862. MS. S. JOTHIMANI

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the budgetary expenditure for primary education and foundational learning, scheme-wise during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the learning outcome report published by the Annual Status of Education Report where it was reported that only 69.9 per cent students of class VIII can read at least basic text in 2022, falling from 73 per cent in 2018;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to ensure the learning outcomes among school going children and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Government has conducted studies to determine the learning outcomes among primary school students and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a): The Department of School Education & Literacy had launched the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha – an Integrated Scheme for School Education by subsuming the erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE) from 2018-19. Foundational Learning is an essential component of Samagra Shiksha. The scheme has been aligned with recommendations of the National Education Policy: 2020 (NEP:2020) and continued from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The Central share allocated during the last three financial years and current financial year for Elementary Education under Samagra Shiksha is given below:

(Rs.in crore)

Year	Central Share Allocated
2020-21	28681.79
2021-22	28388.03
2022-23	35297.16
2023-24	35321.12

(b): Achievement survey released in the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is conducted by a non-governmental organization.

(c): The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha is an Integrated Scheme for school education extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. Samagra Shiksha focuses on improvement in quality of education by providing support for different interventions like in-service training of teachers and school heads, conduct of achievement surveys, composite school grant to every school for providing a conducive learning environment, grants for library, sports and physical activities, etc. Under the scheme, financial assistance is also provided to States and UTs for undertaking various activities to ensure universal access to education including opening/strengthening of new schools upto senior secondary level, construction of school buildings & additional classrooms, up-gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, setting up of residential schools/hostels, for strengthening of infrastructure and provision of other facilities in schools to ensure that all schools meet the prescribed norms, besides other interventions to improve the quality of education such as training of in-service teachers, headmasters and principals, remedial teaching for academically weaker students, provision of library grants to schools, ICT and digital initiatives, strengthening of teacher education institutions, Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan, Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat, etc.

National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) has been launched under Samagra Shiksha which aims that every child in the country attains foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) and e-content for the same has been released in DIKSHA platform.

NISHTHA - an integrated training programme has been introduced for different stages of school education for Teachers, Head Teachers/Principals and other stakeholders in Educational Management.

VIDYA PRAVESH - Guidelines for three-month Play-based School Preparation Module for Grade-I Children, has been released on 29th July, 2021 to ensure that all children are exposed to a warm and welcoming environment when they enter Grade-I.

(d): The Government of India has been implementing a programme of sample based National Achievement Survey (NAS) aimed at classes III, V, VIII and X with a cycle period of three years. The last round of NAS was held on November 12, 2021 across India covering students of grades 3, 5, 8 and 10. The aim and objective of NAS is to evaluate children's progress and learning competencies as an indicator of the health of the education system, so as to take appropriate steps for remedial actions at different levels. National, State/UT and District Reports for NAS 2021 have been released on 25.05.2022 and are available at <http://nas.gov.in>.

Also, Foundational Learning Study (FLS), first of its kind large scale assessment & benchmarking study for oral reading fluency with comprehension in Indian languages was conducted in March 2022 in 20 languages, which are being used as a medium of instruction in various state/UTs i.e. Assamese, Bengali, English, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Mizo, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Garo, Khasi, Konkani, Gujarati and Nepali. The reports for FLS are available at https://dse.education.gov.in/fls_2022.