

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2924
ANSWERED ON 7TH AUGUST, 2023

Renovation of Schools/Availability of Books in Schools in Rural Areas

2924. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

KUNWAR DANISH ALI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that almost 82 per cent of schools in the rural areas have been neglected during the pandemic and need to be renovated;
- (b) if so, the details of such schools identified in the rural areas and also the measures taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that there is a shortage of availability of books for students in the rural areas;
- (e) if so, the steps/measures taken by the Government to make availability of books to children in rural areas; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Education is a subject in the Concurrent list of the 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 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.

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 including toilets for boys and girls, based on the gaps determined from Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+) and proposals received from respective State/ Union Territory. 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 Union Territories.

During the last three years i.e. 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23, an amount of Rs. 10,078.34 crore has been sanctioned under Samagra Shiksha for carrying out infrastructure works like construction of new schools, classrooms, art/craft/culture rooms, labs, toilets (girls, boys & CWSN), drinking water facilities, major repairs, boundary wall, electrification, ramps, etc.

(d) to (f): To promote equitable access and to improve the learning outcomes among children, there is a provision under the scheme of Samagra Shiksha to provide free textbooks to all children in Government/Local Body and Government Aided schools of all States/UTs at elementary level. All children in these schools are provided with free textbooks based on the latest available UDISE+ enrolment in different states/UTs. The UDISE+ data includes all schools located in both rural and urban areas across the country. The States/UTs are advised to ensure timely distribution of textbooks with real time monitoring so that all children receive textbooks before the start of new academic session. A number of 9,90,91,701 children were provided free textbooks across the country during 2022-23.
