

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2947**

ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023

Initiatives of Government towards Minimum Level of Learning

2947. SHRI RAVIKUMAR D.:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the procedure followed by the Government to ensure the Minimum Level of Learning (MLL) for all school going children, since there is learning gap in children as per their standard even after a decade of enactment of the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to enroll returned migrants, child labours and weaker sections children in schools in the years 2020, 2021 and 2022;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the availability of toilets in schools;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government under the Right to Education (RTE) Act 2019 to ensure School Management Committees to trace school dropouts/ out of school children and bring them back to schools; and
- (e) the procedure followed by the Government under RTE Act 2019 to ensure regular monthly meeting of the School Management Committees which will be beneficial for tracing the out of school children?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Department of School Education and Literacy has launched an Integrated Centrally Sponsored Scheme for School Education-Samagra Shiksha with effect from the year 2018-19. Samagra Shiksha scheme has 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 which should take care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.

The Ministry of Education, Department of School Education and Literacy has conducted National Achievement Survey (NAS) on 12.11.2021 in 717 districts of the country to assess learning levels of sampled children 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>.

(b): In order to mitigate the impact of challenges thrown by the COVID-19 pandemic for migrant children and for preventing drop outs, lower enrolments and loss of learning, this department has issued guidelines dated 13.07.2020 for identification, smooth admission process and continued education of migrant children, inter-alia, requesting the States to identify and enroll all children without any procedural formalities and maintain a database of children so admitted. Also, to ensure that children have access to education with quality and equity and to minimize the impact of the pandemic on school education in the country, Ministry of Education has shared guidelines dated 7th January, 2021 with all States which, among others, include identification of out of school children from age 6-18 years, enrolment drives and awareness generation, student support while schools are closed, continued Education for children with Special Needs (CWSN), student support on school reopening and Teacher capacity building.

The Department of School Education and Literacy vide letter dated 4th May, 2021 has shared a comprehensive Covid Action plan with States/UTs and other stakeholders for mitigating the learning gap. Further, an Alternate Academic Calendar has been prepared for learning solutions including self-assessment for grade 1 to 12 for both children with and without device. Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, 2009 provides for admission of children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups in the schools specified in sub-clauses (iii) and (iv) of clause (n) of section 2 in Class I (or below) to the extent of at least 25 percent of the strength of that class.

(c): 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.

Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education had launched Swachh Vidyalaya Initiative (SVI), in partnership with Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and Private Corporates, to provide separate toilets for girls and boys in all Government schools, within one year. Under the initiative, the gaps in availability of toilets was addressed and construction/ re-construction of 4,17,796 toilets, including 1.91 lakh girls' toilets, was completed in 2,61,400 Government Elementary and Secondary schools, as reported by the States and UTs.

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.

There is also a provision in Samagra Shiksha for sanction of budget for taking up repairs to toilets / providing running water etc. Every year as per the proposals submitted by the State / UT during the Project Approval Board meeting of Samagra Shiksha, sanction is accorded for repairs for toilets / water facility etc. 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.

(d) & (e): Section 21(1) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for a School Management Committee (SMC) in schools other than unaided schools and envisages dynamic role of the community in effective monitoring of schools. Section 21(2) of the Act lays down the following functions of the SMCs namely: (i) Monitor the working of the school (ii) prepare and recommend school development plan (iii) monitor the utilization of the grants received from the appropriate Government or local authority or any other source (iv) perform such other functions as may be prescribed.

Samagra Shiksha scheme assigns special importance to decentralised planning and implementation with active involvement of community members, teachers, parents, local bodies including Panchayati Raj Institutions, Municipal Bodies, and other stakeholders in the management of schools through SMCs. Under Samagra Shiksha, there is specific provision of financial assistance of up to Rs.1500 per school under 'Community Mobilisation' and upto Rs. 3000 per school for Training of SMC/SDMC members for Government Schools.
