

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3381  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9th DECEMBER, 2019**

**Difficulties faced by School Children**

3381. SHRI N.K.PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that children are facing difficulties in primary and pre-primary schools and if so, the details of the problems identified and solutions implemented;
- (b) whether the Government has initiated action for the development of primary and pre-primary schools and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the action taken by the Government to provide nutritious food to school children and the initiatives taken by the Government to ensure good physical and mental health of students;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to establish counselling centres at school level for ensuring the mental health of children and if so, the action taken thereon;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to improve the quality of the education in primary and pre-primary level; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to implement children protocol in educational institutions for ensuring their health and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')**

(a) to (f) : The Department has launched the 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. It envisages the 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to Senior Secondary levels.

The major objectives of the Samagra Shiksha are provisioning of quality education and enhancing learning outcomes of students, bridging social and gender gaps in school education, ensuring equity and inclusion at all levels of school education, ensuring minimum standards in schooling, promoting vocationalisation of education, supporting States and UTs in implementation of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 and strengthening and up-gradation of SCERTs/State Institutes of Education and DIETs.

The Samagra Shiksha aims to achieve universal access of all children, including children of weaker sections of society, at all levels of education in an inclusive and equitable manner by provisioning of schooling facilities to the children belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Minority communities, children affected with migration, urban deprived children, homeless children, children without adult protection, children affected with LWE extremism, children affected with violence etc. Preference for various interventions is given to Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs), LWE affected districts, Special Focus Districts (SFDs) and the Aspirational Districts.

This Ministry vide its letters dated 23.11.2010, 26.03.2014 and 8.06.2016 has advised all the States/UT Governments to adopt non-discriminatory, rational and transparent admission process with regard to admission in class I or pre-primary class.

Further, the Centrally-Sponsored Scheme of Mid-Day Meal (MDM) is implemented to improve the nutritional status by providing hot cooked meal to children studying in Classes I-VIII of Government, Government-Aided Schools, Special Training Centres including Madrasas and Maqtabas.

Under Samagra Shiksha, Guidance and counselling is an important aspect at various levels of school education that aims at providing educational, personal and vocational guidance and counselling service to children. Realizing the need for holistic development of children, Sports and Physical Education component has been introduced for encouragement of Sports, Physical activities, Yoga, Co-curricular activities etc.

In addition of the above, advisory has been issued to States and UTs for issuing necessary instructions to the schools for conducting awareness lectures on deficiency of Vitamin-D in school assemblies and for conducting outdoor activities/ physical activities in field/open area during the intervals so that students are benefitted from sun exposure. Department of School Education and Literacy in co-ordination with Department of Sports, has circulated instructions on Fit India School Ranking and Fit India week in schools to States and UTs.

CBSE has made Health and Physical Education compulsory in all classes from I-XII. All students in school are compulsorily required to participate in at least two sports activities as per their interest and capability and this has been included in the eligibility criteria to appear in Board Exams of classes X and XII. The board has mandated appointment of counsellors and wellness teachers on full time basis. Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) also have norms for engaging counsellors to address the needs of students.

\*\*\*\*\*