

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1210  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2021**

**Education after Covid-19 Pandemic**

1210. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:  
SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the challenges of students going back to schools after Covid19 Pandemic and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government agrees that there is a need for a well designed strategy to rectify the damage done by the absence of proper schooling for more than a year;
- (c) if so, the new guidelines issued/ implemented after re-opening of schools along with the views considered before taking any decision?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) Education being in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools, colleges and universities are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. However in these challenging circumstances, the Ministry of Education took up the responsibility to continue the education of the students through multiple alternative ways while ensuring safety and wellbeing of the students.

The Department of School Education and Literacy has issued detailed SOP/guidelines regarding health and safety precautions for reopening of schools after issue of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) guidelines for unlock-5, on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2020. These guidelines can be accessed at:[https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/SOP\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_reopening\\_schools\\_0.pdf](https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/SOP_Guidelines_for_reopening_schools_0.pdf)

Further, 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, the Ministry of Education issued guidelines for identification, smooth admission process and continued education of migrant children on 13.07.2020. 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, the Department of School Education has prepared and issued detailed guidelines on 7th January, 2021, on the steps to be taken by the States and UTs. The guidelines, 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. Further, Bridge Course Modules have been developed for bridging the learning gaps of Out of School Children studying in Special Training Centers (STC) under the provision of RTE Act, 2009.

A comprehensive Covid Action Plan has been shared with the States and UTs on 4th may 2021, outlining the role of local bodies, formation of nodal group at village/town level, conducting door-to-door/helpdesk-based /app based survey to identify out of school children, their mainstreaming and resource sharing.

Samagra Shiksha has been aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in order to ensure inclusive and equitable, quality and holistic school education. The major interventions, across all levels of school education, proposed under the scheme are: (i) Universal Access including Infrastructure Development and Retention; (ii) Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, (iii) Gender and Equity; (iv) Inclusive Education; (v) Quality and Innovation; (vi) Financial support for Teacher Salary; (vii) Digital initiatives; (viii) RTE Entitlements including uniforms, textbooks etc.; (ix) Support for ECCE; (x) Vocational Education; (xi) Sports and Physical Education; (xii) Strengthening of Teacher Education and Training; (xiii) Monitoring; (xiv) Programme Management; and (xv) National Component. Samagra Shiksha also has a clear focus on bridging and eliminating gender differences in enrolment, retention and quality of learning.

A National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy called “National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)” has been launched by the Ministry of Education (MoE) on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha which is an integrated scheme of school education covering from Pre-School to Senior Secondary level. The National Mission lays down priorities and actionable agendas for States/UTs to achieve the goal of proficiency in foundational literacy and numeracy for every child by grade 3. Vidya Pravesh has been launched for class 1st students. This is a play preparation 3 months program which prepare students for school through playschools. Through this scheme all the remote students will have access to play schools. This scheme aims at spreading the concept of playschools to the remotest parts of the country. It aims to ensure that no student is deprived of education.

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