

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2366
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2021

Migration of Students due to CORONA

2366. DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of children who returned to their native States during the pandemic and breakup of source and destination States;
- (b) if not, the reasons for the unavailability of data;
- (c) the estimated number of children who have since re-migrated post lifting of the lockdown;
- (d) the steps taken to prevent dropout and facilitate uninterrupted education of these students; and
- (e) the steps taken to ensure children received instruction in the same language in both host and destination States?

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

(a) to (e): Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the schools come under the purview of the respective State and UT Governments. 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 for identification, smooth admission process and continued education of migrant children on 13.07.2020, inter-alia, requesting the States to identify and enroll all children without any procedural formalities and maintain a database of children so admitted. Further, students of residential school should also be provided temporary admission in schools nearby their homes, as they may not go back to their residential schools during COVID19.

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.

Besides, 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.

This Department has also developed an online module for compiling the data of Out of School Children (OoSC) identified by each State/UT and their mapping with Special Training Centres (STC) on the PRABANDH Portal (<http://samagrashiksha.in>). The concerned State/UT validates the child wise information of the identified OoSC and STC uploaded by the concerned Block Resource Centre of the State for monitoring the progress of mainstreaming of OoSC.

During the pandemic, the Ministry of Education has taken various steps for providing continued access to education, which are available to each category of students irrespective of their region or economic standard. A comprehensive initiative called PM e-Vidya has been started which aims to unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes all forms of digital modes to provide wide access- DIKSHA (online), SWAYAM (online), SWAYAM PRABHA (TV), other TV Channels including use of Doordarshan and AIR Networks. Further, an Alternate Academic Calendar has been prepared for learning solutions for grade 1 to 12 for both children with and without device. Also, PRAGYATA guidelines were issued to States/UTs to facilitate continued education through various modes. The guidelines inter-alia include situation where internet connectivity is not available or available with very less bandwidth, resources are shared through various platforms like television, radio etc that do not depend on internet.

The DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) is a national platform for school education containing learning material, relevant to the prescribed school curriculum, for the students and can be accessed by downloading the DIKSHA app and scanning the QR codes of the textbooks. DIKSHA currently supports 30+ languages and the various curricula of NCERT, CBSE and SCERTs across India. Further, under Centrally Sponsored scheme- Samagra shiksha, financial assistance of upto ₹ 500 per child per annum upto primary level, is provided for Teaching Learning Materials for implementation of innovative pedagogies in all languages, including mother tongue/ home languages/ local languages for language and mathematics.
