

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2515
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2021**

Infrastructure for Primary Education

†2515. SHRI VIVEK NARAYAN SHEJWALKAR:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to formulate any action plan for strengthening the infrastructure and improving the quality of primary education in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c) The Department of School Education and Literacy has launched an Integrated Centrally Sponsored Scheme for School Education - Samagra Shiksha with effect from 2018-19. It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. Samagra Shiksha focuses inter alia on improvement in school infrastructure and quality of education in all States and Union Territories including in rural areas, by providing support for various interventions like upgradation of schools, strengthening of infrastructure of existing schools, provision of composite school grant to every school for providing a conducive learning environment, grants for library, sports and physical activities, in-service training of teachers and school heads, conduct of achievement surveys at state and national level, support for Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan, ICT and digital initiatives, School Leadership development programme, remedial teaching for academically weaker students, support for Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat, etc.

Besides, the following are some of the steps taken to improve infrastructure and the quality of primary education in country, including rural areas:-

- Under erstwhile SSA till 2017-18 and Samagra Shiksha effective from 2018-19, construction of 3.12 lakh school buildings, 18.83 lakh additional classrooms, provision of 2.51 lakh drinking water facility, construction of 4.15 lakh Boys' toilets, 5.33 lakh separate girls' toilets, 1.56 lakh toilets for Children with Special

Needs (CwSN) and 2.96 lakh ramps with hand rails have been sanctioned to States and UTs for elementary schools. Out of which, States and UTs have reported construction of 2.99 lakh school buildings, 18.28 lakh additional classrooms, provision of 2.40 lakh drinking water facility, construction of 3.88 lakh Boys' toilets, 5.19 lakh separate girls' toilets, 1.34 lakh toilets for Children with Special Needs (CwSN) and 2.67 lakh ramps with hand rails till 31.10.2021.

- Central RTE Rules have been amended on 20th February, 2017 to include reference on class-wise, subject-wise Learning Outcomes at Elementary level.
- A 70 indicator based matrix Performance Grading Index (PGI) has been developed to grade the States and UTs.
- National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) has been launched for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) by the end of Grade 3.
- Codification of Learning Outcomes has been developed for the foundational stage.
- An initiative has been launched to improve learning outcomes at the Elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme called NISHTHA under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha in August 2019. The aim of this training is to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students, handle diverse situations and act as first level counsellors.

Due to the COVID pandemic and in order to provide continuous learning opportunities to the teachers at the elementary level, NISHTHA online was launched using DIKSHA platform in October 2020 to reach out to the remaining elementary teachers. NISHTHA online for elementary teachers covers 18 courses in 11 languages. Teachers were oriented on various aspects related to Learning Outcomes, Competency Based Learning and Testing, Learner-centered Pedagogy, School Safety and Security, Personal-social qualities, Inclusive Education, ICT in teaching-learning including Artificial Intelligence, Health and well-being including yoga, new Initiatives in School Education including library, eco club, youth club, kitchen garden, School Leadership qualities, Environmental Concerns, Pre-school, Pre-vocational Education and School Based Assessment in a joyful learning manner.

- NISHTHA 3.0 on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy with 12 modules for Primary level teachers was launched on 7th September 2021.