

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 14
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.07.2022**

Academic Loss during COVID-19 Pandemic

†*14. SHRI SANJAY JADHAV:

SHRIMATI DELKAR KALABEN MOHANBHAI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any assessment regarding academic loss due to school closure during the pandemic especially with regard to Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has made any estimate of the total number of children who dropped out due to school closure during the pandemic and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to compensate for the academic loss of students due to closure of schools during the pandemic; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to make changes in the pattern of examinations to provide equal opportunities to all the students and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 14 TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th JULY, 2022 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT SHRI SANJAY JADHAV AND SHRIMATI DELKAR KALABEN MOHANBHAI REGARDING "ACADEMIC LOSS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC".

(a) to (c) : Due to the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, schools in States and Union Territories (UT) were closed as a precautionary measure to protect the students. This has interrupted the learning of students from pre-school to grade 12. During the pandemic, Ministry of Education has held several consultations with the States and UTs to assess the various aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Further, the Government of India has been implementing a programme of sample based National Achievement Survey (NAS) aimed at classes III, V, VIII and X with a cycle period of three years. The last round of NAS was held on November 12, 2021 across India including UTs of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep covering students 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>.

In addition, 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 & UTs 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.

(d) During pandemic, Ministry of Education had several consultations with the States and UTs to assess the various aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. With a view of addressing the issues related to gaps and/or loss of learning among students, during and after the lockdown, National Council of Education Research & Training (NCERT) has prepared 'Alternative Academic Calendar' which is a week-wise learning plan for grades 1 to 12. It consists of interesting activities and challenges related to topics/themes in the syllabus. It maps the topics/themes with the learning outcomes & facilitates teachers/parents to assess the progress in students' learning in a variety of ways. Also links for e-resources have been provided for those learners who have access to the internet. NCERT has also developed bridge course modules for out-of-school children including various activities which are helpful for bridging the learning gaps and the States/UTs have also been requested to prepare and implement School Readiness Module/Bridge Course in classrooms for initial one or two months for each grade.

In addition, a comprehensive initiative called PM eVIDYA has been initiated which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes the following components:

- DIKSHA the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in states/UTs: and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (one nation, one digital platform)
- One earmarked Swayam Prabha TV channel per class from 1 to 12 (one class, one channel)
- Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and CBSE Podcast- Shiksha Vani
- Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/ YouTube

SWAYAM is a programme initiated by Government of India and designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of Education Policy viz., access, equity and quality. The objective of this effort is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged and to bridge the digital divide for students.

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 5th July 2021 under the aegis of Samagra Shiksha. 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 module has been launched for class I students. This is a play based 3 months school preparation program for children entering in Class I.

Also, to bridge the learning gaps and to ensure continuity of education, this Department has shared a comprehensive Learning Recovery Plan with all the states and Union Territories on 01.02.2022 describing the actions/ activities to be undertaken by all the stakeholders, indicative annual calendar of activities, existing interventions which can be utilized and additional support with funds as one time measure. The weblink for the same is https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/lpr_2023.pdf

(e) Examination pattern of CBSE is inclusive and equitable to all students. CBSE conducts examination of Mathematics, Hindi, English, Sanskrit, Telugu and Urdu at two different levels (Basic and Standard) to accommodate needs of students. The Board prescribes uniform curriculum and uniform examination without discrimination of any kind. However, being sensitive to the needs of special students, CBSE extends certain exemptions/concessions to candidates having benchmarked disabilities as per the Persons with Disability Act 2016. Also, the Board allows students suffering from Type 1 Diabetes to carry eatables with them to the examination centre. The Board conducts Special exam for distinguished sports persons who participate in National /International level sports competitions recognized by SAI/Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India to promote talent in sports by giving special chance to those students.
