

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3496
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2022

Universalisation of Elementary Education

3496. SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:
SHRI GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has achieved the set targets to establish the Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE);

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the same;

(c) the details of the budgetary allocation, funds released for the 'Quality Interventions' component of the SSA during each of the last three years along with the details of the funds actually utilized thereunder;

(d) the extent to which the targets of SSA have been affected during Covid-19 Pandemic; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Central Government under the SSA in order to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic in States, particularly in Odisha?

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 Government.

However, the Department of School Education and Literacy, through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha provides financial assistance to the States and UTs for carrying out various interventions of the scheme to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which should take care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.

All children studying in government, government aided and local bodies schools across the country get benefitted from the Samagra Shiksha scheme.

Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for undertaking various activities for universalisation of school education, including opening/strengthening of new schools upto senior secondary level, construction of school buildings & additional classrooms, setting up, up-gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, setting up of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas, free uniforms to eligible children and free text books at elementary level, transport allowance and undertaking enrolment & retention drives. Further, special training for age appropriate admission of out of school children and residential as well as non-residential training for older children, seasonal hostels / residential camps, special training centres at worksites, transport/ escort facility are also supported to bring out of school children to the formal schooling system. Further, under the student oriented component for the children with special needs, financial assistance is provided for identification and assessment of children with special needs, aids and appliances, braille kits and books, appropriate teaching learning material and stipend to girl students with disability etc.

Under the scheme, lump sum funds are released to the States for implementing various interventions of the scheme including quality interventions. The fund released and expenditure incurred under Samagra Shiksha are as under:

(₹ In cr.)

Year	Release	Expenditure
2018-19	29239.95	44875.43
2019-20	32326.82	48116.28
2020-21	27759.50	45586.12
2021-22	24873.18	43413.18

Note: Expenditure Includes Expenditures against funds released by Central Government, State Share, unspent balances of previous years etc.

The Department of School Education & Literacy has, in order to prevent drop outs, lower enrolments and loss of learning, issued guidelines on 13th July, 2020 for identification, smooth admission process and continued education of migrant children.

Further, 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.

Also, 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.

Further, 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.

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.
