

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3309
ANSWERED ON - 16/12/2024**

Objectives of STARS Project

3309. Smt. Kamaljeet Sehrawat:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) the key objective of Strengthening Teaching - Learning and Results for State (STARS) Project;
- (b) the details of the implementation of the project;
- (c) the manner in which it aims to enhance school education in the identified States with the support of World Bank and State contribution;
- (d) the States covered under the STARS scheme and the quality interventions made there under; and
- (e) the details of the progress made under the scheme?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) Program is being implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme in six states namely Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Kerala over a period of 5 years, i.e., from F.Y. 2020-21 to F.Y. 2024-25. The project envisages improving student outcomes in the selected States and the governance of school education the selected States. The targeted beneficiaries of the project are the children from the age of 3 to 18 years (pre-school to class XII) Education institutions and Teachers. While role of Central Government is to provide policy guidelines, release Central Share as per norms of the Scheme and overall monitoring of the Scheme. States are responsible for actual implementation of the Scheme, provide their share of funds for the Scheme and own and monitor its implementation on ground. With a view to help the States in effective implementation, guidelines have been devised for implementing various interventions of the Scheme. In addition, Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) have been devised for every component. Review meetings are held by Union Ministry of

Education with the States from time to time to monitor and review implementation of the Scheme. Further, the Scheme has an inbuilt monitoring and evaluation mechanism to ensure effective implementation of interventions viz. Joint Review Mission (JRM) of the World Bank with the objective of reviewing status of progress and implementation. Other mechanisms for effective implementation include Project Appraisal, Budgeting Achievements and Audit Mechanism.

(c): The STARS project aims to enhance educational service delivery by focusing on these successful practices and implementing reforms through improved decentralized management and planning. It strengthens the early education, learning assessments, classroom instruction, and teacher development while facilitating transitions to higher education and strengthening governance. STARS aims to strengthen governance and management practices with focus on decentralized academic planning, rigorous teacher training, effective incentives for teachers, and comprehensive school readiness programs.

The STARS project leverages India's government structure to enhance state capabilities, while the balance will tilt significantly toward support to states, select components of the transformational National Education Policy 2020 and Samagra Shiksha scheme support at the government level. The project's support is structured as a hybrid operation, comprising both a Program for Results (PforR) component to facilitate state-level reforms and a technical assistance component. The PforR mechanism require states to meet Disbursement-Linked Indicators (DLIs) aimed at improving early childhood education and increasing secondary education completion rates. Additionally, a State Incentive Grant (SIG) scorecard incentivize states to enhance educational service delivery and prioritize specific state needs, ultimately aimed at driving better learning outcomes across the country. The program offers flexibility to the six states to choose from among, and within, a set of five sub-components depending on their state-specific context, reform agenda, and needs. The state component aims to strengthen early childhood education, improve learning assessment systems, enhance teacher performance and classroom practice, strengthen the school-to-work/higher education transition, and improve governance and decentralized management.

(d): The STARS project has introduced several impactful quality interventions aimed at improving educational outcomes across the six STARS states. These initiatives focus

on data-driven decision-making, career guidance, creative learning, early childhood education, and support for children with special needs.

One of the interventions is the command and control centre unit known as Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK), a data-driven tool designed to assist educational stakeholders in making informed decisions. By collecting and analyzing educational data, the VSK helps track progress, identify trends, and make evidence-based decisions that drive improvements in educational outcomes. The project also supports academic support and career guidance to students from low-income families and vulnerable backgrounds, helping them secure places in reputed higher education institutions. Complementing this, creative corners have been established in classrooms to foster creativity and interdisciplinary learning. These spaces integrate subjects such as science, math, and social studies, encouraging students to develop essential life skills through hands-on activities. Furthermore, for students with special needs, the PRASHAST app facilitates early identification through universal screening, allowing timely support for children who require special attention. This initiative is complemented by extensive training for educators, ensuring that they are equipped to identify and support children with learning disabilities.

To ensure school readiness, a School Readiness Program has been implemented, providing resources, health checks, and developmental assessments to prepare children for grade 1. This initiative ensures that children are well-equipped academically and socially as they begin their formal education journey. Additionally, for early childhood education, Foundation Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) model schools have been strengthened through detailed guidelines that enhance the quality of education at the foundational level. These guidelines have been successfully implemented across a significant number of schools, emphasizing the importance of foundational skills for future academic success. Finally, the events like seminars, conferences and workshops, encourages young minds to tackle real-world challenges in fields like agriculture, education, and healthcare. This initiative provides students with an opportunity to develop innovative solutions and present them at a state-level event, promoting creativity and problem-solving.

There are workshops and trainings under STARS project play a pivotal role in enhancing teacher training and capacity building, bridging the gap between education and school-to-work transition. These workshops provide educators with modern pedagogical tools, exposure to innovative teaching methods. By focusing on

experiential learning and outcome-based education, teachers are better equipped to guide the students towards holistic development and skill acquisition. Together, these initiatives under the STARS project represent a comprehensive approach to improving the quality of education, supporting both students and educators, and fostering a conducive learning environment.

(e): **Total Approvals and Expenditure Status under the STARS project (till F.Y. 2024-25)**

(Rs in crore)

State Name	Total Central Releases	Total State Releases	Total Releases	Expenditure*	% Expenditure of Total Releases
C1	C2	C3	C4 = C2+C3	C5	C6 = C5/C4*100
Himachal Pradesh	393.67	43.74	437.41	343.86	78.61 %
Kerala	292.54	195.03	487.57	356.24	73.06 %
Madhya Pradesh	169.28	112.85	282.13	252.82	89.61 %
Maharashtra	303.86	202.57	506.43	393.59	77.74 %
Odisha	432.17	288.11	720.28	520.14	72.21 %
Rajasthan	393.73	262.49	656.22	512.93	78.16 %
Total	1985.25	1104.79	3090.04	2379.58	77.01 %

* Approvals & Expenditure incurred by states include both central as well as state share