

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1125
ANSWERED ON 10th February, 2025**

Decline in Level of Education by NEP

† 1125. Shri Ujjwal Raman Singh:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of children in the country aged between 5 to 11 years who have never gone to school;
- (b) whether the level of education in the country started declining gradually due to the National Education Policy; and
- (c) if so, the measures being taken by the Government in this regard and make the children aware of education?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Department of School Education and Literacy is maintaining “Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+)” portal. No data regarding the children who have never gone to school is maintained by UDISE+. However, National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation has been conducting Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) since 2017. As per PLFS 2023-2024 report, 3.06% of children in the country aged 5-11 years have never gone to school.

(b) & (c): The level of education in the country has not declined due to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. NEP 2020 has introduced transformative reforms aimed at improving the quality of education at all levels. Recognizing the need for foundational literacy and numeracy, equitable learning opportunities, and modern pedagogy, the policy has restructured the education system to make it more inclusive, competency-based, and outcome-oriented.

To achieve these goals, the government has implemented various initiatives under NEP 2020. PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) for upgradation of schools; Samagra Shiksha for providing quality education with an inclusive and equitable classroom environment for all children; National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) for ensuring foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3; Vidya-Pravesh–Guidelines for Three-month Play-based School Preparation Module; PM e-VIDYA to unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable coherent multi-mode access to education, DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) as One Nation One Digital Platform having e-Books and e-Contents, launch of National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF FS) and Jadui Pitara for play-based learning teaching material tailored for children between the age group of 3 to 8 years; PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) aimed at transforming student assessments from rote memorization to competency-based evaluation; NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0 to provide structured teacher training programs and enhance teaching effectiveness.

The impact of these initiatives is evident in rising enrolment rates, declining dropout levels, improved infrastructure, and better academic performance. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) has reached 93% at the primary level, 89.7% at the upper primary level, 91.7% at the elementary level, and 77.4% at the secondary level, while dropout rates have declined to 1.9% at the primary level, 5.2% at the upper primary level, and 14.1% at the secondary level. School infrastructure has seen notable enhancements, with electricity access increasing from 53% in 2013-14 to 91.8% in 2023-24, internet availability rising from 7.3% to 53.9%, and library facilities have expanded from 76.4% to 89%.

With a focus on infrastructure development, teacher training, digital learning, and equitable access to education, NEP 2020 has played a crucial role in elevating learning standards and strengthening the country's education system, making it more effective and inclusive.
