

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 86
ANSWERED ON 03.02.2025

Participation of SMCs and Community in Education

86. Dr. Amar Singh:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is cognizant that strengthening School Management Committees (SMCs) and community participation in education is vital for the successful execution of educational policies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 emphasizes the participation of community and parents in helping the child to learn appropriately and in achievement of learning outcomes. Section 21 of Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 mandates the formation of School Management Committees (SMCs) in all government and government-aided schools, ensuring 50% representation of women and adequate representation of parents from disadvantaged groups. Para 5.11 of NEP, 2020 states that in collaboration with parents and other key local stakeholders, teachers will also be more involved in the governance of schools/school complexes, including as members of the School Management Committees/School Complex Management Committees.

Under Samagra Shiksha, a flagship scheme of the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, there is a provision of Community Mobilization under Quality and Innovation interventions which states that community mobilization and close involvement of community members in implementation of Education is extremely critical as it fosters 'bottom-up approach' not only in effective planning and implementation of interventions in the schools but also in effective monitoring, evaluation and ownership of the Government programmes by the community.

One of the major activities of Community Mobilization component is constitution of SMC/School Management Development Committee (SMDC) in every school which includes representative of local authorities, academicians, subject experts, officials, representative of disadvantaged groups, women and parents/guardians of students, in accordance with the RTE Act. In addition, following initiatives have also been taken by the Department to connect communities with Schools:

- **Vidyanjali 2.0:** It encourages individuals, civil societies and corporates sector to support schools through volunteering, mentorship, infrastructure development, and co-scholastic activities.
- **Parental Awareness & Engagement Programs:** Under these programs, regular parent-teacher meetings (PTMs) and community interactions are organized to ensure participation in student learning and school improvement.
- **ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society):** The initiative aims to promote literacy and skill-building by involving the community in learning activities.

Community participation is being regularly enhanced as Jan Andolan for various initiatives like Foundational Literacy & Numeracy, Eco clubs, Ek Ped Maa ke Naam, Literacy campaigns, Sports days, Innovative learning, Shiksha Saptah, etc.
