

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.203
ANSWERED ON 25/11/2024

Lack of Foundation Skills, Basic Knowledge and Skills among Children

203 Shri Mani A:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many primary students have limited foundational numeracy skills and also lack basic knowledge and skills, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government intends to reassess the teaching methods and curriculum, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the lack of proper training to teachers affected education of children drastically;
- (e) whether the Government provides more trainings to teachers and evaluate their performance by holding regular test to improve the quality of education given by them; and
- (f) the details of other steps taken by the Government in order to provide quality education in schools?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (f): To evaluate children's progress and learning competencies, Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L), Ministry of Education has been implementing a rolling programme of sample based National Achievement Survey (NAS) aimed at classes III, V, VIII and X with an interval of three years. It acts as an indicator of the health of the education system, so as to take appropriate steps for remedial actions at different levels. About 34 lakh students of 1.18 lakh schools of 720 districts from both rural and urban areas were assessed from Government and Private Schools. Further, National, State and District report card of NAS 21 demonstrating the performance of students from each type of schools have been released in public domain on 25.05.2022 at <http://nas.gov.in>.

PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) has been setup under National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) by the DoSE&L. It has conducted State Educational Achievement Survey (SEAS) 2023. The primary objective of this survey is to evaluate the learning competencies of students in Foundational Literacy, Foundational Numeracy, Language and Mathematics at the end of each of the educational stages i.e. Foundational, Preparatory, and Middle. The SEAS-23 has included blocks in the sample to cover of students to understand the learning gaps at the block level, a strategic shift from district. Approximately 8.4 million students and 6 lakh teachers, of 4 lakh schools of 6416 educational blocks were assessed in SEAS-23.

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L) is implementing an integrated centrally sponsored scheme for School Education- Samagra Shiksha since 2018-19. The scheme of Samagra Shiksha has been aligned with National Education Policy, 2020 with focus on improving the quality of education through various measures such as introduction of new pedagogical and curricular structure (5+3+3+4), Early Childhood Care and Education and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, among others and covers the entire continuum of Education from 3 years of Balvatika (preschool) to class 12.

A National Mission called “National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)” has been launched on 5th July, 2021 for ensuring that every child in the country attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 2. This Mission has been set up under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha- an integrated scheme for School Education. Under Samagra Shiksha, all 36 States/Union Territories are implementing NIPUN-Bharat Mission.

The National Education Policy (NEP 2020) emphasizes on developing the relevant concepts and attaining requisite competencies to facilitate optimal learning when children start schooling. Keeping in focus the holistic development, a 3 Months Play Based ‘School Preparation Module and Guidelines’ for Grade I named ‘Vidya Pravesh’ was launched on 29th July, 2021. The goal of Vidya Pravesh programme is to promote school preparedness in all children coming to Grade- I from diverse backgrounds, to ensure a smooth transition of children to Grade-I, to provide play based, age and developmentally appropriate learning experiences in a joyful and stimulating environment leading to holistic development. The 12-week module contains developmentally appropriate instructions for the children entering Grade 1 to bolster a child’s pre-literacy, pre-numeracy, cognitive and social skills. All States/UTs are implementing Vidya Pravesh programme.

To improve the Learning Outcomes in Foundational Stage (3 years of Balvatika and Grade 1 & 2), the National Curricular Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) was released on 20th October, 2022 providing a structure for the syllabus, Training of Teachers, Learning Teaching Material (LTM), etc. Accordingly, Jaadui Pitara for Balvatika (3 years of preschool) and Books for Grade 1 & 2 have been provided by NCERT for use by States/UTs.

Jaadui Pitara -a Collection of learning- teaching material for 3 to 6 years age group has been developed and launched on 20th February, 2023. The Jaadui Pitara is a box having 53 Learning Teaching Materials (LTM) for the foundational stage. It has toys, games, puzzles, puppets, posters, flashcards, story cards, play book set for students and handbooks for teachers.

The e-Jaadui Pitara (e-JP) was launched on 10th February 2024. The e-JP is an app and website with integration of the latest technology with play-based pedagogy and a way to disseminate the learning of Jaadui Pitara and transcend it beyond the four walls of the classroom.

In order to provide continuous learning opportunities to the teachers, NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) online was launched using DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) platform in October 2020 to reach out to elementary teachers and its further extension to all level of teachers. It includes multiple approaches for interaction i.e., Text Modules along with videos. All these content are aligned to the three developmental goals and learning outcomes of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN).

To prepare an initial cadre of high quality ECCE Teachers in Anganwadis, NISHTHA-ECCE and FLN have been launched in July, 2022. It is aimed towards sensitization of master trainers on developmentally appropriate pedagogy for holistic development of children which will contribute for enhancing quality education at Foundational level. These cater to both training of Anganwadi workers and preschool teachers.
