

learning outcomes, school based assessment, promoting experiential learning, sports and arts integrated education and improving community participation.

Under Samagra Shiksha, various interventions have been approved for improving quality of education such as Science fair/Exhibition and Talent Search at district level; provision of mathematics and science kits to schools, visit of students to higher institution and learning enhancement of students, induction and in-service training of teachers, leadership training of school heads, support for Foundational learning and libraries through Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat, support for Rashtriya Aavishkar Abhiyan etc.

State of school education

†508. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the state of school education in the country is extremely perturbing as half of the students studying in class eight do not have the knowledge of simple multiplication, division and half of the students studying in class five can not read the text books of class two;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government on its own level and in collaboration with States to solve this national problem and to inculcate interest among children and youth of the country towards education; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when Government would take any concrete step?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducts periodic national surveys to assess learning achievement of children in Classes-III, V, VIII, and X. The National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2017, was held on 13th November for assessing the competencies developed by the children at the grade levels III, V and VIII from across 701 districts covering all the 36 States and UTs and covered 22 lakh students from 1.10 lakh schools. NAS (2017) was administered with districts as the unit of reporting in different subject areas such as languages, mathematics, EVS/Science and Social Sciences in the Government and Government aided schools. The competency based test was based on the Learning Outcomes which were recently incorporated in the Central Rules for the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Act by the Government of India. Similarly, National Achievement Survey for Class X was also conducted throughout the country on February 05, 2018 in Government, Government aided and private schools. The learning levels of 1.5 million students in 44,304 schools across 610 districts in 34 States and UTs were assessed, in 5 subject areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science and Modern Indian Language (MIL).

The NAS district report cards have been shared with the States and UTs to help in identifying gaps at the district level and devise strategies for further improvement. Subsequently, a framework of intervention has been developed and shared with States to improve the quality of learning in the schools.

Further, Central Government has taken the following initiatives for improving quality of education:-

- (i) Section 23(2) of the RTE Act has been amended to extend the period for training of untrained in-service elementary teachers to 31st March, 2019. As per above amendment, all untrained in-service teachers working in Government, Government aided, and Private un-aided schools should acquire minimum qualification as laid down by an academic authority, authorized by the Central Government, by 31st March, 2019. The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has been entrusted to conduct this training through ODL (Open Distance Learning) mode. The online D.El.Ed. course has started from 3rd October, 2017. More than 13 Lakh teachers have joined these courses.
- (ii) The Department of School Education and Literacy has launched an Integrated Scheme for School Education-Samagra Shiksha, subsuming three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE), with effect from 1st April, 2018. The new integrated scheme envisages school education as a continuum from pre-school to senior secondary level and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels. The main objectives of the scheme are providing quality education, enhancing learning outcomes of students, bridging social and gender gaps in school education, ensuring requisite infrastructure in schools, support to states in the implementation of RTE Act, 2009 and strengthening of teacher education institutions.
- (iii) The Government has also launched Rashtriya Aavishkar Abhiyan (RAA) programme on 09.07.2015, to motivate and engage children of the age group of 6-18 years in Science, Mathematics and Technology through observation,

experimentation, inference drawing, model building, etc. both through inside and outside classroom activities. The Central Government, supports States and UTs on early grade reading, writing and comprehension, and early Mathematics programmes through a sub-programme namely 'Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat' (PBBB) in foundational years of schooling.

- (iv) e-PATHSHALA: a single point repository of e resources containing NCERT textbooks and various other learning resources has been developed for showcasing and disseminating all educational resources including textbooks, audio, video, periodicals, and a variety of other print and non-print materials.
- (v) MHRD has launched a Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) platform popularly known as SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active learning for Young Aspiring Minds) on 9th July, 2017. The portal is offering various online courses for school education and higher education. NCERT is developing course modules for Massive Open and Online Course (MOOCs) for school education system in 12 subject areas (Accountancy, business studies, biology, chemistry, economic, history, geography, mathematics, physics, political science, psychology and sociology) for classes IX-XII. Twelve (12) courses and twenty one (21) courses have been completed in the first cycle and second cycle (completed on 30 Nov., 2018) on SWAYAM platform (<https://swayam.gov.in/>) respectively. Nearly 22,000 students and 30,000 students were registered in the first cycle and second cycle respectively.
- (vi) A programme for utilization of satellite communication technologies for transmission of educational e-contents through 32 National Channels *i.e.* SWAYAM PRABHA DTH-TV has been launched. Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET)-NCERT is the national coordinator for one DTH TV channel *i.e.*, Kishore Manch (#31) and has started feeding a 24x7 educational TV channel *w.e.f.* 09 July, 2018. Besides, NIOS is running 5 channels for teachers, for Secondary and Senior Secondary levels and for sign language.
- (vii) Performance Grading Index (PGI)-In order to objectively evaluate the performance of the school education system in the States/UTs, MHRD has designed a 70 indicators based matrix to grade the States/UTs. The indicators have been chosen after detailed stakeholder consultation and the information on these indicators is drawn from the inputs provided by the respective States/UTs. This grading system will assist the States and UTs to identify the gaps and design appropriate interventions to bridge them.

- (viii) Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+)- Timely and accurate data is the basis of sound and effective planning and decision making. Towards this end, the establishment of a well-functioning and sustainable Educational Management Information System is of utmost importance today. Therefore, from 2018-19, it has been decided to launch the UDISE+ application, so that it becomes an effective tool for decision making. The entire system will be online and will gradually move towards collecting real time data.
- (ix) In order to provide supplementary learning material for students and for upgrading the skills of teachers, MHRD has developed a dedicated Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) platform. The high quality e-learning material both for students and teachers is being uploaded by Ministry and States/UTs on this portal. This is expected to substantially augment the knowledge base of the students and technical skills of teachers at no additional cost.
- (x) Government of India has decided to participate in the Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA) to be conducted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 2021. PISA is a competency based assessment which unlike content-based assessment, measures the extent to which students have acquired key competencies that are essential for full participation in modern societies. Learnings from participation in PISA help to introduce competency based examination reforms in the school system and help move away from rote learning. The CBSE and NCERT are part of the process and activities leading to the actual test.

Replacing two year B.Ed. course

509. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to replace the current two year long B.Ed. course with the four year long course;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the roadmap for the students who have completed their graduation and want to go for B.Ed. course after completion of their graduation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) There is no proposal for