

Survey to evaluate quality of education

*59. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey/study has been carried out recently to evaluate the quality of primary, secondary and higher education in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the critical thinking of students in primary and secondary education in the prevailing global scenario; and

(d) the details of specific programmes in this regard being implemented, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL/NISHANK'): (a) and (b) 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 2017 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 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.

(c) and (d) The Central Government has taken the following initiatives for improving quality of education and develop critical thinking of students:

- (i) Under Samagra Shiksha to ensure inclusive and equal education at all levels support is provided to the States and Union Territories under which the Rashtriya Aavishkar Abhiyan (RAA) to motivate and engage children in Science, Mathematics and Technology and 'Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat' (PBBB) schemes for teaching reading, writing and mathematics in elementary classes are being implemented.
- (ii) To ensure competencies, the Central rules to the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 have been amended and class-wise, subject-wise Learning Outcomes have been shared with all States and Union Territories.
- (iii) Untrained in-service elementary teachers have been trained.
- (iv) In order to provide e-learning material, different facilities like e-PATHSHALA, DIKSHA portal, SWAYAM (Study Webs to Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds), SWAYAM PRABHA DTH Channels have been made available by the Ministry.
- (v) An integrated Teacher Training Programme titled NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) has been launched.
- (vi) The 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.
- (vii) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has undertaken various examination reforms to promote competencies and quality of learning:
 - (a) Change in design of question papers with nearly 33% increase in internal choice in all major subjects for classes X and XII and introduction of objective type questions. It has been decided to include 10% competency based Questions in the annual examination of class 10 in the current year.
 - (b) Experiential learning has been introduced from 2019-20 to promote self thinking, creativity and effective study skills among students.