

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1145
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2021

Education amid Covid-19 lockdown

1145 Shri Derek O' Brien:

Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of students who got displaced amid migrant workers crisis induced by COVID-19 pandemic lockdown;
- (b) the facilities Government schools are providing to its students in lieu of Mid-Day Meals and other education initiatives which got cancelled amid COVID-19 pandemic;
- (c) the details of Government plan to recover/compensate for the loss in teaching time resulting out of lockdown amid COVID-19 pandemic; and
- (d) whether there is a plan for preventing increased drop outs, lower enrolments, loss of learning and deterioration in the gains made in providing universal access, quality and equity?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a): Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the schools come under the purview of the respective State and UT Governments. In order to mitigate the impact of challenges thrown by the COVID-19 pandemic for migrant children and for preventing drop outs, lower enrolments and loss of learning, the Ministry of Education issued guidelines for identification, smooth admission process and continued education of migrant children on 13.07.2020. The guidelines were issued to all States and UTs and uploaded on the Ministry's website at

https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/Migrant%20labour%20_guide_line.pdf. The States have been asked to identify and enrol all children of migrant workers without any procedural formalities and maintain a database of migrant children admitted.

(b) & (c): To mitigate the impact of the pandemic and to ensure that the school going students do not lag behind in their studies during COVID 19, the Department of School Education has taken several initiatives which, inter-alia, include series of meetings with the States/UTs at the Minister level, Alternative Academic Calendar for grades 1 to 12, Pragyata guidelines for online/blended/digital education, Guidelines for Children of Migrant Labourers, Manodarpan programme for psycho-social support, PM e-Vidya which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to provide multi-mode access to education through DIKSHA, SwayamPrabha channel, E-content and use of Radio, Community radio and podcast, learning enhancement guidelines and sharing the best practices relating to the innovative methods of reaching to the last child by the States/schools/teachers/community/volunteers/peers etc. to ensure continuity in learning. Also, during the pandemic period, mid-day meal in the form of food security allowance/dry ration has been provided to the students at elementary level.

(d): In order to ensure that our children have access to education with quality and equity and to minimize the impact of the pandemic on school education in the country, the Department of School Education has prepared and issued detailed guidelines on 7th January, 2021, on the steps to be taken by the States and UTs. The link of the guidelines is https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/guidelines_oosc.pdf. The guidelines, among others, include identification of out of school children from age 6-18 years, enrolment drives and awareness generation, student support while schools are closed, continued Education for children with Special Needs (CWSN), student support on school reopening and Teacher capacity building. Further, under centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to the States and UTs for undertaking various activities to reduce number of out of school children, including drop outs.
