

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1154
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8th DECEMBER, 2021**

Schemes for the development of latent talent of poor students

1154 SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes being implemented by Government for the development of latent talent of poor students at the school and college level in the country;
- (b) whether Government has implemented any schemes/projects for setting up of Model Degree Colleges for improving education in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to improve the infrastructure/quality of education in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) The Government of India has taken various measures for the development of latent talent of poor students in the country, such as:

- The Navodaya Vidyalayas select students for residential schooling on the basis of an all India Competitive Entrance Exams. The identified talented children are nurtured and educated for Seven years in the Vidyalayas till they complete schooling.
- The National Talent Search Scheme of NCERT identifies and nurtures students selected through a two-tier process every year. The Scheme helps talented students by providing financial assistance in the form of monthly scholarships and also conducts nurturance programmes for them.
- National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) has been launched for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) by the end of Grade 3. The goals and objectives of the mission are required to be achieved by all

Govt., Govt. Aided and Private Schools so that universal acquisition of FLN skills can be achieved.

- The Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme has been started to identify and encourage talented children to enrich their skills and knowledge, gifted children are mentored and nurtured by renowned experts in different areas, so that they can reach their full potential.
- The centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha has various interventions like establishment of Youth club and Eco clubs to show case their innate talents and hone their skills. Also, activities like Kala Utsav, Rangotsav, Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat, Band Competition, etc are supported in the schools wherein children get an opportunity to exhibit their innate talent.

(b) & (c): The Centrally sponsored scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is implemented by the Government of India with the aim of promoting access, equity and quality. Model Degree Colleges (MDCs) have been sanctioned in 194 Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs) of which UGC had sanctioned 64 and 130 MDCs have been sanctioned under RUSA.

(d) The various steps taken by the Government of India to provide infrastructure/quality school education across the country, include the following:

- Central RTE Rules have been amended on 20th February, 2017 to include reference on class-wise, subject-wise Learning Outcomes at Elementary level.
- National Achievement Survey (NAS) is conducted to enable States/UTs to identify gaps in learning outcomes, and take remedial steps. NAS 2021 has been conducted on 12th November 2021.
- A 70 indicator based matrix Performance Grading Index (PGI) has been developed to grade the States/UTs.
- NISHTHA integrated training programme 1.0, 2.0, and 3.0 Integrated Teacher Training Programme has been introduced for different stages of school education - Teachers, Head Teachers/Principals and other stakeholders in Educational Management and Administration have been introduced –
 - NISHTHA 1.0 for Elementary level (Classes I-VIII)
 - NISHTHA 2.0 for Secondary level (Classes IX-XII)
 - NISHTHA 3.0 for NIPUN Bharat (ECCE to Class V)
- Learning Outcomes for Secondary level have been notified.

- The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) was entrusted to conduct teachers training through ODL (Open Distance Learning) mode, which has been completed by about 9.58 lakh teachers.
- Also, the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha focuses on improvement in quality of education by providing support for different interventions to all States and UTs, like upgradation of schools, strengthening of infrastructure of existing schools, in-service training of teachers and school heads, conduct of achievement surveys at state and national level, composite school grant to every school for providing a conducive learning environment, grants for library, sports and physical activities, support for Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan, ICT and digital initiatives, School Leadership development programme, remedial teaching for academically weaker students, support for Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat, etc.
