

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1935
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2021

Challenges in the field of primary education

1935 # **Shri Hardwar Dubey:**

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

- (a) the policy of the Ministry to deal with challenges in the field of education as the primary school is the pillar of education of any country;
- (b) whether even today, there is lack of quality education in Government primary schools as there are not enough teachers in schools and even today common people try to send their children to private schools after taking loans; and
- (c) the efforts being made to restore the credibility to Government primary schools so that more and more people send their children to Government primary schools?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (c): As per Section 3(1) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, every child of the age of six to fourteen years shall have a right to free and compulsory education in a neighbourhood school till completion of elementary education. The RTE Act, 2009 in its Schedule lays down Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) for both primary and upper primary schools. At primary level, the PTR norm is maximum of 30:1 for enrolment upto 200 and maximum 40:1 thereafter. As per the Unified District Information System for Education+, 2019-20, the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) for primary is 27:1, which is better than the prescribed norms. The actual deployment of teachers in schools comes under purview of respective State Government.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha was launched in 2018-19 for universalization of quality education throughout the country in coordination with the States and UTs. It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable

quality education at all levels of school education. The scheme treats school education as a continuum and is in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal for Education (SDG-4). The scheme not only provides support for the implementation of the RTE Act but has also been aligned with the recommendations of NEP 2020 to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which should take care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.

Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for undertaking various activities for universalization of school education, including opening/strengthening of new schools upto senior secondary level, construction of school buildings & additional classrooms, setting up, up-gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, setting up and running of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas, free uniforms, free text books, transport allowance and undertaking enrolment & retention drives. Further, special training for age appropriate admission of out of school children and residential as well as non-residential training for older children, seasonal hostels / residential camps, special training centres at worksites, transport/ escort facility are also supported to bring out of school children to the formal schooling system. Also, mid-day meal is provided to students at the elementary level of education.

Further, The National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) was launched under the aegis of the Samagra Shiksha scheme, on mission mode on 5th July, 2021 to ensure universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy, so that every child achieves the desired learning competencies in reading, writing and numeracy at the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.
