

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1945
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2021**

Access to education during the pandemic

1945. Shri Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any extra funds were transferred to the States with respect to access to education during the pandemic and phased reopening of schools and the details thereof, quantum-wise; and

(b) the State-wise targets for distribution of textbooks and other physical learning materials to students and tracking of children and their return to school, WASH facilities, masks and other facilities for schools and other COVID-19 protocols, resumption of cooked mid-day meal and for developing face-to-face accelerated learning programmes to recover lost institutional time given surveys by various organizations including ASER, Oxfam and Save The Children?

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

(a) & (b) Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. During COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Education has held continuous consultations with the states and UTs at various levels to assess the various aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent lockdowns on students.

The Government of India launched Samagra Shiksha-an Integrated Scheme for school education, w.e.f. 2018-19, as 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. Samagra Shiksha focuses on improvement in quality of education by providing support for different interventions like 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, textbook, 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. Furthermore, support for Learning Enhancement Programme - one of the major interventions under Samagra Shiksha is also provided to states and UTs for distribution of supplementary material workbooks, worksheets and activity sheets etc. Under Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, teaching learning material is provided for implementation of Innovative Pedagogies.

To mitigate the effect of covid-19, a total of Rs. 6249.15 crores were allocated for the year 2021-22 under Samagra Shiksha, which includes the following:

- Rs. 1983.05 crore to promote online learning through digital initiatives,
- Rs. 133.68 crore for online teacher training to ensure continuous professional development of teachers,
- Rs. 275.71 crore for training of members of School Management Committees (SMC)/ School Management and Development Committees (SMDC) to create awareness amongst the students and parents,
- Rs. 145.28 crore for media and community mobilization,
- Rs. 187.20 crore for Safety and Security at school level,
- Rs. 128.49 crore for orientation of teachers on safety and security and
- Rs. 3395.73 crore under composite school grant which inter-alia includes safe school operations, sanitization and ensuring basic wash facilities, safe drinking water, availability of essentials like alcohol rub/sanitizer disinfectant, cleaning material, thermal screening facilities etc.

Further, an outlay of Rs. 2860.56 crore had been approved for distributing free text books to 9.72 crore children at the elementary level in the year 2021-22. The state-wise details are at Annexure.

Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) earlier known as 'National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools' is Centrally-Sponsored Scheme provides one hot cooked meal to all eligible children in all Government and Government – aided Schools in the country. During the current pandemic, since schools were closed, all enrolled children are given Food Security Allowance comprising of food grains and cooking cost in the form of dry ration or cooking cost in cash as Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) by States and UTs during 2020-21 and 2021-22. Now, progressively States are reopening schools and provision of hot cooked meal is being resumed.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1945 FOR 15.12.2021 ASKED BY SHRI BIKASH RANJAN BHATTACHARYYA REGARDING “ACCESS TO EDUCATION DURING THE PANDEMIC”

Progress of Textbook 2021-22

(Rs. In lakh)

Sl.No	Particular	Budget Approved	
		Physical	Financial
1	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	28362	89.04
2	Andhra Pradesh	3175475	9889.36
3	Arunachal Pradesh	162972	496.55
4	Assam	4151498	12669.36
5	Bihar	16353798	49463.76
6	Chandigarh	93689	297.20
7	Chhattisgarh	2224571	6808.39
8	Delhi	1547222	4904.34
9	Dnd - Dnh	58983	177.51
10	Goa	140917	451.76
11	Gujarat	651704	2600.63
12	Haryana	1449803	4450.64
13	Himachal Pradesh	284372	884.27
14	Jammu And Kashmir	597391	1936.38
15	Jharkhand	4047021	12204.41
16	Karnataka	770030	2524.50
17	Kerala	2536842	7955.98
18	Ladakh	13327	40.04
19	Madhya Pradesh	6585894	20280.51
20	Maharashtra	10858889	20118.49
21	Manipur	165270	471.40
22	Meghalaya	588554	1768.55
23	Mizoram	99492	303.75
24	Nagaland	105644	316.68
25	Odisha	4453106	13760.53
26	Puducherry	60971	192.38
27	Punjab	656052	2040.08
28	Rajasthan	6087120	18327.38
29	Sikkim	46749	151.67
30	Tamil Nadu	4283411	13631.05
31	Telangana	2077123	6519.89
32	Tripura	421119	1298.94
33	Uttar Pradesh	17960908	51830.96
34	Uttarakhand	694156	2156.16
35	West Bengal	3763590	15043.33
Grand Total		97196025	286055.88