

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2746
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2021**

Impact of COVID-19 on education

2746 Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti:

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted or will be conducting an assessment of the impact of COVID-19 and the kind of learning gap school closure has created among school children;
- (b) the details of the parameters on which the 'National Assessment Survey' will be conducted to take into account the effects of COVID-19, school closure and online education on school children; and
- (c) whether Government plans to provide support to schools to address the concerns as have been highlighted in this regard in the report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee and will come forward through the official survey of Government?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Government of India has been implementing a rolling programme of sample based National Achievement Survey (NAS) aimed at classes III, V, VIII and X under Samagra Shiksha since 2001 with a cycle period of three years. NAS 2021 has been held on 12.11.2021 and has covered (a) Government Schools (Central Government and State Government); (b) Government Aided Schools; and (c) Private Unaided Schools.

The objective of NAS 2021 is to evaluate children's progress and learning competencies as an indicator of the health of the education system, so as to take appropriate steps for remedial actions at different levels.

Taking the cognizance of the suggestion/recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee, various initiatives were taken by the Ministry of Education, States and Union Territories to mitigate the effect of the Covid pandemic on school education. A detailed report on these initiatives may be seen at the website of Education Ministry at following link: https://dse.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/update/covid_initiatives.pdf

A comprehensive initiative called PM eVIDYA has been initiated which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes:

- DIKSHA the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in states/UTs: and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (one nation, one digital platform)
- One earmarked Swayam Prabha TV channel per class from 1 to 12 (one class, one channel)
- Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and CBSE Podcast- Shiksha Vani
- Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/ YouTube

Where the digital facility (mobile device/ DTH television) is not available, Ministry of Education has taken many initiatives like Community Radio Stations and a podcast called Shiksha Vani of CBSE, Textbooks, worksheet supplied to residence of learners, Handbook on 21st Century Skills and community/mohalla classes are organized. Innovation Funds of the Department are used to set up mobile school, virtual studios, virtual class rooms in schools, Continuous Learning Plan (CLP) for States/UTs has been initiated in all States/UTs, pre-loaded tablets in various states and UTs are effectively used in remote/rural areas where online classes are difficult. Further, in order to provide continuous professional development opportunities to the teachers at the elementary level, this Department launched the NISHTHA online training programme using DIKSHA platform in October 2020. NISHTHA online for elementary level covered 18 modules in 11 languages, including use of ICT in teaching-learning.

Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and it is the concurrent responsibility of both Centre and State/UT Government to implement provisions of Right to Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs in a fixed proportion. The annual plans are prepared by the States and UTs based on their requirements and priority and this is reflected in their respective Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) proposals. These plans are then appraised and approved/estimated by the Project Approval Board (PAB) in the Department of School Education and Literacy in consultation with the States and UTs.
