

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2752
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2021**

Setting up of SSSA

**2752 Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas:
Shri Abdul Wahab:**

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

- (a) the details of criteria that will be used to define/categorize a privately-managed school as public spirited;
- (b) the details of States that have started the process of creating a State School Standards Authority (SSSA);
- (c) whether any guidelines have been framed by the Ministry to facilitate the setting up of SSSA;
- (d) if so, the detailed thereof;
- (e) whether the setting up of SSSA is intended to supersede existing private school laws and other regulations; and
- (f) whether the SSSA will replace existing structures for regulation of private schools set up under State fees regulations laws?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (c) to (f): National Education Policy (NEP) – 2020 provides the following provisions for the setting up of School Standards Authority (SSA) for all schools in the country:-

- Para 8.5 (c) provides that "An effective quality self-regulation or accreditation system will be instituted for all stages of education including pre-school education - private, public, and philanthropic - to ensure compliance with essential quality standards. To ensure that all schools follow certain minimal professional and quality standards, States/UTs will set up an independent, State-wide, body called the State School Standards Authority (SSSA). The SSSA will establish a minimal set of standards based on basic parameters (namely, safety, security, basic infrastructure, number of teachers across subjects and grades, financial probity, and sound processes of governance), which shall be followed by all schools. The framework for these parameters will be created by the SCERT in consultation with various stakeholders, especially teachers and schools. Transparent public self-disclosure of all the basic regulatory information, as laid down by the SSSA, will be used extensively for public oversight and accountability. The

dimensions on which information has to be self-disclosed, and the format of disclosure will be decided by the SSSA in accordance with global best practices for standard-setting for schools. This information will have to be made available and kept updated and accurate by all schools, on the aforementioned public website maintained by the SSSA and on the schools' websites. Any complaints or grievances from stakeholders or others arising out of the information placed in the public domain shall be adjudicated by the SSSA. Feedback from randomly selected students will be solicited online to ensure valuable input at regular intervals. Technology will be employed suitably to ensure efficiency and transparency in all work of the SSSA. This will bring down significantly the heavy load of regulatory mandates currently borne by schools."

- Para 8.7 of National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 provides that the public and private schools (except the schools that are managed/aided/ controlled by the Central government) will be assessed and accredited on the same criteria, benchmarks, and processes, emphasizing online and offline public disclosure and transparency, so as to ensure that public-spirited private schools are encouraged and not stifled in any way. Public disclosure on the school website and on the SSSA website - for both public and private schools - would include information on the numbers of classrooms, students, and teachers, subjects taught, any fees, and overall student outcomes on standardized evaluations such as the National Achievement Survey (NAS) and State Achievement Survey (SAS).

Thus, the emphasis is given on an effective quality, self-regulation and transparent public self-disclosure.

CBSE has prepared standards in different areas of school functioning like curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, infrastructure, inclusive practices, human resources, management and governance and leadership and the 'Assessment Tool' for the framework of standards called School Quality Assessment and Assurance has been made available at the DIKSHA portal. It can be used by the States for functioning of their SSSA.

(b): As reported by States, the details of States that have started the process of creating a State School Standards Authority (SSSA) are as under:-

- Andhra Pradesh has established Andhra Pradesh State Education Regulatory and Monitoring Commission (APSERMC) to act as SSSA.
- NCT of Delhi has stated that Delhi Board of School Education will act as SSSA.
- Arunachal Pradesh has designated CBSE to act as SSSA for all the Schools.
- Lakshadweep has nominated Directorate of Education, UT of Lakshadweep to perform the assignments of SSSA as per the parameters prepared by the CBSE
- Punjab has nominated State Council of Educational Research & Training, Punjab to act as SSSA.
