

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1151
ANSWERED ON 13.12.2023

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS IN NEURO DISORDERS

1151 SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH:
DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:
MS. KAVITA PATIDAR:
SHRI RAKESH SINHA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- a) the steps taken by Government to support children with neuro-disorders like ASD and ADHD in obtaining a good education, and whether there are any plans to enhance their education;
- b) whether Government is aware that many people lack awareness of these disorders, which can lead to neglecting a child's needs; and
- c) whether Government organise campaigns to raise awareness about these disorders, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. State and UT Governments are the appropriate Governments under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha launched in 2018-19, has dedicated Inclusive Education component for the education of Children with Special Needs (IE for CwSN) covering all CwSN with one or more disabilities as mentioned in the schedule of disabilities of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 including children with neuro-disorders like cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder and disability caused due to chronic neurological conditions. It aims to look at education of CwSN in a continuum from Pre-Primary to Class XII studying in Government, Government-aided and local body schools.

Through this component, CwSN are provided support via specific student oriented interventions such as identification and assessment camps, provision of aids, appliances and assistive devices, transportation, scribe and escort allowance support, Braille books and large print books for children with visual impairment, stipend for girls with special needs and teaching-learning materials etc. in order to appropriately address their unique educational requirements in general schools. Capacity building of general teachers and special educators on meeting learning needs to provide quality education to children with disabilities and improve their learning outcomes, are also

covered. Further, individualized support is also provided through therapeutic interventions at the block level. There is also provision for Home Based Education for children with severe multiple disabilities etc. in order to appropriately address the unique educational requirements of CWSN in inclusive schools.

The good education, particularly for children with neuro-disorders like ASD and ADHD starts with the screening at the school, which in turn may lead to identification and certification of the disability making them eligible for the provisions under inclusive education component of Samagra Shiksha to support their learning in the nearby inclusive school. The screening of students with special needs including children with ASD and SLD is currently being done through the PRASHAST App.

Further, with the aim to spread awareness about the ASD and SLD and other disability conditions National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is conducting a live interaction series, titled, “Teaching Learning Interventions for Inclusive Classrooms”. Each episode is of half hour duration, focusing on promoting inclusive pedagogy practices, by considering one class, one subject and one-chapter from textbooks, with mandatory ISL interpreter. An archive of 632 sessions available on NCERT official youtube channel.
