

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 205**  
ANSWERED ON 24/07/2024

**Learning Poverty**

205 Shri Rajeev Shukla:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of measures being taken by Government to address learning poverty in the country, which refers to the inability to read and understand a short, age-appropriate text by age 10, a condition that has risen to 70 per cent according to recent studies, exacerbating the post-pandemic effects on the country's education infrastructure;
- (b) the details of progress made in this regard, the State-wise/UT-wise details thereof; and
- (c) the proposed measures to be taken in this regard?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)**

(a) to (c) : The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in Para 2.1 of the NEP 2020 states “The ability to read and write, and perform basic operations with numbers, is a necessary foundation and an indispensable prerequisite for all future schooling and lifelong learning.”

Para 2.2 of the NEP 2020 states “Attaining foundational literacy and numeracy for all children will thus become an urgent national mission, with immediate measures to be taken on many fronts and with clear goals that will be attained in the short term (including that every student will attain foundational literacy and numeracy by Grade 3). The highest priority of the education system will be to achieve universal foundational literacy and numeracy in primary school by 2025.”

Acknowledging the same, the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education has launched a National Mission called “National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)” on 5th July, 2021 for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 2. This Mission has been set up under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha- an integrated scheme for School Education. NIPUN Bharat Mission Implementation guidelines were released on 5th July, 2021. Under Samagra Shiksha, all 36 States/Union Territories are implementing NIPUN-Bharat Mission.

A 3 Months Play Based ‘School Preparation Module and Guidelines’ for Grade I named ‘Vidya Pravesh’ was launched on 29th July, 2021. The goal of Vidya Pravesh programme is to promote school preparedness in all children coming to Grade- I from diverse backgrounds, to ensure a smooth transition of children to Grade-I, to provide play based, age and developmentally appropriate learning experiences in a joyful and stimulating environment leading to holistic development. The 12-week module contains developmentally appropriate instructions for the children entering Grade 1 to bolster a child’s pre-literacy, pre-numeracy, cognitive and social skills. At present, all 36 States and UTs have implemented Vidya Pravesh Programme. In 2023-24, an approximately 1,13,024,91 students have benefited from this module. The State/UT wise details of the same are annexed.

To improve the Learning Outcomes in Foundational Stage, the National Curricular Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) was released on 20th October, 2022 providing a structure for the syllabus, Training of Teachers, Learning Teaching material (LTM), etc. Accordingly, Jadui Pitara for Balvatika ( 3 years of preschool) and Books for Grade 1 & 2 have been provided by NCERT for use by States/UTs.

**ANNEXURE TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 205 FOR REPLY ON 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024 ASKED BY  
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA REGARDING “LEARNING POVERTY”**

S. No.	State/UT	Total Student of Grade 1 covered under Vidya Pravesh/ School Readiness Program in 2023-24
1	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	2221
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	26378
3	ANDHRA PRADESH	635585
4	ASSAM	600602
5	BIHAR	1564979
6	CHANDIGARH	1933
7	CHHATTISGARH	331377
8	D&N H AND DAMAN & DIU	7218
9	DELHI	136318
10	GOA	23675
11	GUJARAT	113610
12	HARYANA	105099
13	HIMACHAL PRADESH	58278
14	JAMMU & KASHMIR	4020
15	JHARKHAND	447088
16	KARNATAKA	620878
17	KERALA	106376
18	LAKSHADWEEP	1015
19	LADAKH	5000
20	MADHYA PRADESH	763289
21	MAHARASHTRA	923277

22	MEGHALAYA	15372
23	MANIPUR	32551
24	MIZORAM	18811
25	NAGALAND	14149
26	ODISHA	511895
27	PUDUCHERRY	8176
28	PUNJAB	203261
29	RAJASTHAN	879705
30	SIKKIM	3195
31	TAMIL NADU	267957
32	TELANGANA	227352
33	TRIPURA	39503
34	UTTAR PRADESH	1417449
35	UTTARAKHAND	69375
36	WEST BENGAL	1115524
	Total	11302491

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