

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-988  
ANSWERED ON –04/12/2024**

**Gap in quality education among rural and urban students**

**988    Shri Anil Kumar Yadav Mandadi:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to State:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is wide gap between the quality of education acquired by the students living in rural and urban areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has formulated any plan to overcome this difference and provide quality and quantity school education to all students;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)**

(a) to (e): Ministry of Education has been implementing a rolling programme of sample based National Achievement Survey (NAS) at classes 3, 5, 8 and 10 with an interval of three years to assess children's progress and learning competencies. The National Achievement Survey conducted in 2017 and 2021 has not shown any significant differences in the level of achievements between Urban and Rural Schools.

Education is a subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution and the majority of schools are under administrative control of the respective State Government/UT administration. To improve quality of Education and learning outcomes, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is implemented by Department of School Education & Literacy

with States/UTs in a systematic manner. The major initiatives and achievements of NEP 2020 include:

- **Samagra Shiksha:** The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education is implementing Samagra Shiksha from 2018-19 across the entire country. The scheme has been aligned with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. It aims to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which should take care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in a continuous learning process.
- National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (**NIPUN BHARAT**) launched on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021.
- **4-year integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP)** has been notified by NCTE vide gazette notification dated 22.10.2021. For academic session 2024-25, 23 institutions have been recognized by NCTE for Phase 2 Piloting of ITEP.
- National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (**NCF FS**) launched on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2022.
- Based on NCF, Learning Teaching Material (**Jadui Pitara**) and Textbooks for classes I and II launched on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 and 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 respectively. **Digital version of the Jadui Pitara** also launched on 10th February, 2024.
- National Curriculum Framework for School Education (**NCF-SE**) released on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023. Textbooks for classes 3 and 6 for the academic year 2024-25 as per NCF-SE (2023) have been released.
- **PARAKH:** In pursuance of the recommendation of the NEP 2020, the National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), was established on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 by the Ministry of Education under the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). PARAKH's primary objective is to establish norms, standards, and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation across all recognized school boards in the country and to ensure equivalence of academic standards among learners across all school boards. PARAKH is closely working with school boards and conducting various workshops on equivalence of academic standards among learners across all school boards. PARAKH also acts as a platform for

sharing best practices and ensuring academic equivalence across various school boards, fostering fairness and uniformity in student learning outcomes. It provides guidance to school boards on new assessment patterns, the latest research and promotes collaboration among school boards. The series of workshops organized by PARAKH is a critical step towards improving quality of assessment by standardizing question paper templates and enhancing the capacity of question paper setters across school boards. Restructuring assessment methodologies is crucial for reducing rote learning and focusing on critical thinking and the evaluation of core competencies to enable student mobility across school boards and schools without disadvantage due to differing assessment systems.

- For Competency Based Assessment for Holistic Development, the **Holistic Progress Card (HPC)** for the Preparatory, Foundational, Middle and Secondary stage have been prepared and shared with all states and UTs.
- **National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST)** document outlines the competencies that teachers should possess to effectively perform their roles released on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
- **National Mission for Mentoring (NMM)- ‘Bluebook on NMM’ released on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024**, talks about the creation of a large pool of outstanding professionals willing to provide mentoring to school teachers.
- Under **PM eVIDYA, DIKSHA is one nation, one digital education infrastructure**. All states/UTs have been onboarded in DIKSHA. DIKSHA provides quality e-content for school education in States/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (**one nation, one digital platform**). DIKSHA currently hosts 7,080+ textbooks energized with QR codes, including 374 NCERT textbooks and ETBs. The e-Content is available in 108 Languages (101 Indian languages +7 Foreign Languages).
- **DIET- Centre of Excellence:** The NEP 2020 recognises reinvigoration of DIETs to change the capacity and work culture of these institutions and develop them into vibrant institutions of excellence. Financial assistance under Samagra Shiksha is provided to States/UTs for physical upgradation of all 613 functional DIETs in the country in a phased manner in the next five years. In the FY 2023-24, 125 DIETS across 33 States/UTs with an approximate budget of Rs. 92,320.18 lakhs was approved.
- **Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)** Scheme is revamped and extended to cover students of Balvatika in addition to students of Classes I-VIII in

Government and Government-Aided Schools. It encourages setting up of School Nutrition Gardens (SNG) and strengthening of community participation through ‘**Tithi Bhojan**’.

- **Tithi Bhojan:** Tithi Bhojan is a community participation programme in which people provide special food to children on special occasions/festivals in addition to regular meal. Recently Shiksha Saptah was conducted in Government and Government aided Schools across the entire country in which Tithi Bhojan was provided in more than 2 lakh schools to more than 1.6 crore students.
- **School Nutrition Gardens (SNGs):** Under the Scheme, development of School Nutrition Gardens in schools is being promoted, to give children firsthand experience with nature and gardening. In 5.16 lakh schools, SNGs have been set up across the country.
- **PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) scheme** launched on 7<sup>th</sup> Sep 2022. PM SHRI Schools are set up by strengthening the existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central government/State/UT Government/local bodies. These schools are to showcase all the initiatives of National Education Policy 2020 and emerge as exemplar schools over a period of time, and also offer leadership to other schools in the neighbourhood. They provide leadership in their respective regions in providing high-quality education in an equitable, inclusive and joyful school environment that takes care of the diverse background, multilingual needs, and different academic abilities of children and makes them active participants in their own learning process as per the vision of NEP 2020. Under the scheme, there is a provision of setting up of more than 14500 PM SHRI Schools by strengthening the existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central government/State/UT Government/local bodies out of which 12,084 PM SHRI Schools have been selected so far.

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