

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1007
ANSWERED ON- 04/12/2024

IMPLEMENTATION OF SAMAGRA SHIKSHA SCHEME IN TAMIL NADU

1007 Shri R. Dharmar:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) Objectives of Samagra Shiksha Scheme;
- (b) total funds allocated and utilized under the Samagra Shiksha Scheme within Tamil Nadu;
- (c) steps taken to ensure that scheme reaches rural, remote and economically backward areas;
- (d) progress made in implementation of scheme with regard to quality of education, infrastructure development and teacher training;
- (e) steps taken to bridge gender gap and ensure equitable access to education for girl child, children with disabilities and marginalized communities;
- (f) whether Government plans to expand or reform the Scheme to address emerging challenges such as digital literacy, online education and the impact of the pandemic on education; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Department of School Education and Literacy is implementing an integrated centrally sponsored scheme for School education- Samagra Shiksha with effect from the year 2018-19. The Scheme subsumes the three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).

The Scheme has now been aligned with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and 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 the learning process.

The major objectives of the Scheme are: (i) Support States and UTs in implementing the recommendations of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020); (ii) Support States in implementation of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009; (iii) Focus on Early Childhood Care and Education; (iv) Emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy; (v) Thrust on Holistic, Integrated, Inclusive and activity based Curriculum and Pedagogy to impart 21st century skills among the students; (vi) Provision of quality education and enhancing learning outcomes of students; (vii) Bridging Social and Gender Gaps in School Education; (viii) Ensuring equity and inclusion at all levels of school education; (ix) Strengthening and up-gradation of State Councils for Educational Research and Training (SCERTs)/State Institutes of Education and District Institutes for Education and Training (DIET) as nodal agency for teacher training; (x) Ensuring safe, secure and conducive learning environment and maintenance of standards in schooling provisions and (xi) Promoting skill education.

(b): The central share released and utilized (expenditure includes central share, state share and other receipts received by the State) for Tamil Nadu under the Samagra Shiksha Scheme from 2018-19 to 2023-24, is ₹ 10,447.31 crore and ₹ 16,445.10 crore, respectively.

(c): Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and the majority of Schools are under the administrative domain of the respective States/UTs. The States/UTs and Centre endeavour to uplift the educational status of the students of the country, including rural, remote and economically backward areas. Various schemes/projects/programmes run by the Ministry have been aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. NEP 2020 aims to ensure that no student loses opportunity to learn and excel because of the social/geographical gaps. Samagra Shiksha aims to ensure that all children, from pre-school to class 12, 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 the learning process.

Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to all States and UTs for different interventions like composite school grant to every school for providing a conducive learning environment, grants for library, sports and physical activities, Free Uniform And text books to eligible students, support for Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan, ICT and digital initiatives, School Leadership development programme, remedial teaching for academically weaker students, etc. Also, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for all demographic regions for the expansion of quality education by undertaking various activities such as setting up, up-gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, setting up and running of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas, establishing of hostels under PM-JANMAN, construction of hostels for ST unsaturated population under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAGJUA), various school infrastructure components to identified border villages under Vibrant Village Program etc. Further, under the student oriented component for the children with special needs, financial assistance is provided for identification and assessment of children with special needs, aids and appliances, Braille kits and books, appropriate teaching learning material and stipend to girl students with disability etc.

Also, the requirement of infrastructural facilities in schools are worked out every year by the respective State/Union Territory on incremental basis depending on their need and priority and reflected in their Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B). These plans are then appraised and approved/estimated by Project Approval Board (PAB) in consultation with the States and Union Territories as per the programmatic and financial norms of the scheme, physical and financial progress of works sanctioned earlier and availability of budgetary resources.

(d): Samagra Shiksha envisages education as a continuum from pre-primary to secondary level. Thus, improving the quality of education across all levels is a continuous and ongoing process. In School Education several initiatives have been taken such as PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India); Samagra Shiksha for providing quality education with an inclusive and equitable classroom environment for all children; National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) for ensuring foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3; Vidya-Pravesh–Guidelines for Three-month Play-based School Preparation Module; PM e-VIDYA to unify all efforts related to

digital/online/on-air education to enable coherent multi-mode access to education, DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) as One Nation One Digital Platform having e-Books and e-Contents, launch of National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF FS) and Jadui Pitara for play-based learning teaching material tailored for children between the age group of 3 to 8 years; PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development); NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0; Vidya Samiksha Kendra; Integrated Teacher Education Programme; National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST); National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) for creating a unifying national digital infrastructure to energise and catalyse the education ecosystem, implementation of a scheme "New India Literacy Programme or ULLAS" targeting all non-literates age 15 years and above, etc.

Under Samagra Shiksha, States and UTs are supported for strengthening of existing government schools, and for creation and augmentation of infrastructure facilities based on the gaps determined from Unified District Information System for Education+ (UDISE+) database and proposals received from respective State/UT. The States/UTs have been requested in various forums including Project Approval Board (PAB) meeting, review PABs for filling up the gaps in school infrastructure. The States/UTs have also been requested to converge the various components of Samagra Shiksha with the schemes of other Ministries for filling up the gaps in school infrastructure.

Further, education is a subject in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and most of the schools come under jurisdiction of concerned States and UTs. State and UT Governments are the appropriate Governments under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, and have the responsibility and mandate to provide infrastructure in schools in accordance with the norms laid down in the Schedule to the RTE Act, 2009 and as per respective State RTE Rules.

The Department of School Education and Literacy has launched a National Mission to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme called NISHTHA – National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha in 2019-20. NISHTHA is a capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training". NISHTHA online was launched using DIKSHA

platform in October 2020. NISHTHA training has been extended to secondary stage teachers in 2021-22. Further, NISHTHA has been extended to Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for training of master trainers.

(e): Bridging gender and social category gaps at all levels of school education is one of the major objectives of Samagra Shiksha. The scheme reaches out to girls, and children belonging to SC, ST, minority communities and transgender. In order to ensure greater participation of girls in school education, various interventions have been targeted, which include opening of schools for girls, free uniform and text-books to girls up to Class VIII, additional teachers and residential quarters for teachers in remote/hilly areas, appointment of additional teachers including women teachers, stipend to CWSN girls from class I to class XII, separate toilets for girls, menstrual hygiene (incinerator etc.), teachers sensitization programmes to promote girls participation, gender-sensitive teaching-learning materials including text books, self-defense training. In addition, to reduce gender gaps at all levels of school education and ensure access and quality education to girls, under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) which are residential schools for girls from class VI to XII from age 10-18 years belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL).

Under Samagra Shiksha scheme, financial assistance is provided to the State and UTs under the inclusive education component for Student specific interventions, namely, aids and appliances, development of teaching learning material, transport/escort facilities for children with severe disabilities, assistive devices, support staff (readers, scribes) etc. , large print text book, Braille books, home based education for children with severe &/ multiple disabilities, stipend for CWSN girls, Identification and assessment camps of children with disabilities, engagement of Special Educators so that each child with special needs is adequately covered.

(f) & (g): Ministry of Education, through its centrally sponsored scheme Samagra Shiksha, implements ICT and Digital Initiatives component to enhance digital learning in Government and Government aided schools across the country. The initiatives aim to enhance the quality of education by integrating technology into teaching and learning processes.

Under this component, financial assistance for recurring and non-recurring interventions is provided for establishing ICT Lab and Smart Classrooms in schools as per the options and norms available under the Samagra Shiksha scheme.

Further, Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA), One Nation, One Digital Platform, is the platform for providing quality e-content for school education in States/UTs and is fully funded through the National Component of the Samagra Shiksha scheme and managed by NCERT. Each State/UT leverages the platform its own way, as it has the freedom and choice to use the varied capabilities and solutions of the platform to design and run programmes for teachers, learners and administrations as per the curricula needs. DIKSHA e-contents are available in 108 languages (101 Indian and 7 foreign).

A comprehensive initiative called PM e-Vidya has been started which aims to unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes all forms of digital modes to provide wide access- DIKSHA (online), SWAYAM (online), SWAYAM PRABHA (TV), other TV Channels including use of Doordarshan and AIR Networks.
