

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2095
ANSWERED ON –19/03/2025

Proficiency of literacy and numerical skills in the children

2095 Shri Parimal Nathwani:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to State:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any study to benchmark fluency, comprehension and proficiency of literacy and numerical skills in the children;
- (b) if so, the outcome of the study, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government for improving fluency, comprehension and proficiency of literacy and numerical skills in the children?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) and (b): The Government of India conducts large-scale assessments to measure learning and education outcomes across the country from time to time. The National Achievement Survey (NAS) was conducted in 2017 and again in 2021 to assess the learning levels of students at different stages of school education. The surveys provided a comprehensive overview of student performance in Grades 3, 5, 8 and 10 across language, mathematics, environmental studies, science and social science. The State-wise and District-wise report cards are available in public domain and may be accessed at: <https://nas.gov.in/report-card>.

In continuation of these efforts, the PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024 was conducted on December 4, 2024 by the National Assessment Centre, PARAKH under the aegis of the Ministry of Education. This survey marks a significant advancement in India's assessment framework, aligning with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasises competency-based learning and assessment reforms. The PARAKH survey is designed to provide a detailed, granular understanding of student learning across different socio-economic backgrounds and regional contexts, ensuring that educational policies are data-driven and targeted towards equitable learning improvements. With participation of 74000 Schools, 2.70 lakh teachers and 21 lakhs of students across Government, Aided and Private Schools, the survey's data collection and analysis are aimed at strengthening accountability mechanisms, guiding future educational reforms and providing data-driven insights for policy interventions.

(c): The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L) is implementing an integrated centrally sponsored scheme for School Education - Samagra Shiksha since 2018-19. The Samagra Shiksha Scheme has been aligned with NEP 2020 with focus on improving the

quality of education and educational outcomes through various measures such as introduction of new pedagogical and curricular structure (5+3+3+4), Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) and Teacher Education among others and covers the entire continuum of education from 3 years of Balvatika (preschool) to class 12.

A National Mission called “National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)” has been launched on 5th July, 2021 to ensure that every child in the country attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 2 by 2026-27. Under Samagra Shiksha, all 36 States/Union Territories are implementing NIPUN-Bharat Mission.

The NEP 2020 aims to transform School and Higher Education by emphasising holistic, flexible and multi-disciplinary learning with a strong focus on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), critical thinking and life skills and underscores the importance of developing conceptual understanding and requisite competencies to ensure optimal learning outcomes from the early years of schooling

In alignment with this vision, a three-month 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-readiness for all children entering Grade- I from diverse backgrounds ensuring a smooth transition into formal education. The programme is designed to provide age appropriate, developmentally responsive and play-based learning experiences within a joyful and stimulating environment fostering 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. All States/UTs are implementing the Vidya Pravesh programme.

To improve the Learning Outcomes at Foundational Stage (3 years of Balvatika and Grades 1 & 2), the National Curricular Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) was released on 20th October, 2022. The NCF-FS provides a structure for syllabus, Training of Teachers, Learning Teaching Material (LTM), etc to ensure developmentally appropriate education for young learners.

In alignment with this framework, Jaadui Pitara, a comprehensive collection of play-based learning-teaching materials for children aged 3 to 6 years, was launched on 20th February, 2023. The Jaadui Pitara consists of 53 interactive LTMs, including toys, games, puzzles, puppets, posters, flashcards, story cards, playbooks for students and handbooks for teachers. This initiative aims to create a joyful and engaging learning environment that fosters foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) through experiential and play-based pedagogy. NCERT has provided Jaadui Pitara for Balvatika (3 years of preschool) and books for Grades 1 & 2 for use by States/ Union Territories (UTs).

To expand the reach of Jaadui Pitara beyond traditional classroom settings, the e-Jaadui Pitara (e-JP) was launched on 10th February, 2024. The e-JP is a digital platform, accessible via a mobile application and a dedicated website, integrating cutting-edge technology with play-based learning. The app currently has more than 1,000 stories in 14 languages facilitating multilingual learning and interactive engagement for children across diverse backgrounds.

Besides the above, the National Assessment Centre- PARAKH in NCERT has developed structured pedagogical interventions to enhance FLN outcomes, including the Holistic Progress Cards and competency-based assessment tools. The implementation of these measures is regularly monitored through the Performance Grading Index (PGI), periodic learning assessments, Vidya Samiksha Kendra and State School Standard Setting Authorities at the State and National levels.
