

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2121
ANSWERED ON –19/03/2025**

Quality of education in Primary Schools

2121 Dr. Dharmasthala Veerendra Heggade:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to State:

- (a) the current status of Foundational Literacy, Foundational Numeracy, Language and Mathematics competencies amongst Primary level students across the country;
- (b) whether Government has any monitoring and evaluation mechanism to assess the quality of education being provided at Primary level, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of measures taken to improve the quality of education in Primary schools; and
- (d) the objectives of launching “National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)”?

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 emphasizes 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.

The Government of India has established a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation mechanism to assess the quality of education at the primary level, ensuring alignment with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. One of the key initiatives in this regard is the Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK), an advanced data analytics system being established at the National and State levels to map student learning outcomes, teacher performance and learning effectiveness. VSK is working to integrate multiple datasets including student and teacher attendance, assessment results, teacher training progress and insights from various digital learning platforms to provide real-time insights into the education system's functioning. By leveraging latest technologies like AI and big data analytics, VSK is working to enable evidence-based decision-making and targeted interventions to enhance learning outcomes at the primary level.

Additionally, under Samagra Shiksha, dedicated component is earmarked for supporting Management, Monitoring, Media, Evaluation & Research (MMMER) activities at the National and State level including social audits and impact analysis.

Provision of financial assistance for independent, periodic and holistic assessment of students and development of a robust technology enabled monitoring mechanism to assess quality of education at primary level is also available to States/UTs as a part of NIPUN Bharat Mission for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy under Samagra Shiksha.

(c) and (d): The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha has been aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 with focus on improving the quality of education through various measures such as introduction of new pedagogical and curricular structure, Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), transforming assessment for student development, competency-based learning etc.

There is a dedicated component of Quality and Innovation under Samagra Shiksha, wherein funds are provided to States/UTs, for quality related interventions to enhance learning levels of students in schools. Such interventions include in-service training of teachers and school heads, composite school grant to every school for providing a conducive learning environment, grants for library, sports and physical activities, support for STEM education under Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan, ICT and digital initiatives, Learning Enhancement Programmes (LEP), conducting achievement surveys at State and National level, School Leadership development programme, remedial support for academically weaker students, Holistic Progress Card which allows a 360° evaluation of the learners' progress, Skill Exhibition cum Competition and internship for Skill Education, etc.

Additionally, to improve teacher effectiveness, support is provided under Samagra Shiksha for strengthening and upgradation of State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs) and the District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) as nodal agencies for contextual curriculum development and teacher training.

Besides the above, the following initiatives have been taken by the Department of School Education and Literacy, MoE to improve the quality of education in India:

- 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. e-content for the same has been released on the DIKSHA platform and TLMs (Teaching Learning Materials) have been prepared to achieve the goals of NIPUN Bharat. Under Samagra Shiksha, all 36 States/Union Territories are implementing NIPUN-Bharat Mission.
- NISHTHA Integrated Teacher Training Programme has been introduced for capacity building and training at different stages of school education for Teachers, Head Teachers/Principals, Master Trainers and other stakeholders in Educational Management.
- Keeping holistic development in mind, a 3 Months Play Based ‘School Preparation Module and Guidelines’ for Grade I named ‘Vidya Pravesh’ has been launched on 29th July, 2021. The goal of Vidya Pravesh programme is to promote school preparedness in all children entering Grade- I from diverse backgrounds and to provide play based, age and developmentally appropriate learning experiences in a joyful and stimulating environment leading to holistic development.
- The National Curriculum Framework for Foundational stage (NCF FS), 2022 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF SE), 2023 which outlines the Curricular Goals and competencies across various stages of schooling have been released. Textbooks for classes 1 and 2 based on NCF FS and textbooks for classes 3 and 6 based on NCF SE have been introduced for the academic session 2024-25.

Implementation of the above interventions are being monitored through periodical meetings with States/UTs, including Project Approval Board (PAB) meetings, and data furnished by States through the PRABANDH Portal.
