

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3711
ANSWERED ON 05.04.2023

Quality education to children with neuro-disorders

3711 Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is working for the welfare of the children with neuro-disorders ASD, ADHD etc. in providing quality education;
- (b) whether the Ministry has any scheme to be launched for such children's betterment in educational institutes;
- (c) whether the Ministry has noticed that there is very low awareness about neuro-disorders among parents and general people which lead them to neglecting the child's needs; and
- (d) whether Government can arrange awareness events to make the people aware about the same?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (d) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha launched in 2018-19, has dedicated Inclusive Education component for the education of Children with Special Needs (IE for CwSN) covering all CwSN with one or more disabilities as mentioned in the schedule of disabilities of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 including children with neuro-disorders like cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder and disability caused due to chronic neurological conditions. It aims to look at education of CwSN in a continuum from Pre-Primary to Class XII studying in Government, Government-aided and local body schools.

Through this component, CwSN are provided support via specific student oriented interventions such as identification and assessment camps, provision of aids, appliances and assistive devices, transportation, scribe and escort allowance support, Braille books and large print books for children with visual impairment, stipend for girls with special needs and teaching-learning materials etc. in order to appropriately address their unique educational requirements in general schools. Capacity building of general teachers and special educators on meeting learning needs to provide quality education to children with disabilities and improve their learning outcomes, are also covered. Further, individualized support is also provided through therapeutic interventions at the block level. In addition, based on respective State/UT proposal received under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan - IE for CwSN component: Support for community awareness programs on various areas of disability and inclusion for stakeholders is also provided.

The focus of Samagra Shiksha is on providing inclusive education to children with special needs wherein, children regardless of their abilities/disabilities participate and learn together in the same class, thus creating an enabling educational environment for all students. Samagra Shiksha also has provisions for creation of disable friendly infrastructure such as ramps and disable friendly toilets for barrier free access in schools.

PRASHAST - A Disability Screening Checklist for Schools' booklet and mobile app, launched on 6 September 2022, during Shikshak Parv, covers the 21 disabilities, as per the RPwD Act 2016. This initiative facilitates Special Educators in schools to do early screening, leading to certification of Children with disabilities, as per the provisions of Samagra Shiksha.

Further, Ministry of Education has undertaken a proactive initiative, named "Manodarpan" covering a wide range of activities to provide psychosocial support to students, teachers and families for Mental Health and Emotional Well being during the COVID outbreak and beyond. A webpage for Manodarpan has been created on the Website of the Ministry of Education, which contains advisory, practical tips, posters, videos, do's and don'ts for psychosocial support, FAQs and online query system. National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) had started 'NCERT Counselling Services for School Children' in April, 2020 to help school students across the country share their concerns. Live interactive sessions on 'SAHYOG: Guidance for Mental Wellbeing of Children' are telecast on 12 PM eVidya DTH-TV channels for classes 1 to 12.
