



सत्यमेव जयते

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA

**DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION, WOMEN, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND SPORTS**

THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY NINTH REPORT

**Demands for Grants 2023-24 of the
Department of School Education & Literacy**

(Presented to the Rajya Sabha on 28th March, 2023)
(Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 28th March, 2023)



Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi
March, 2023 /Chaitra, 1945 (Saka)

*Website: <https://rajyasabha.nic.in>
E-mail: rsc_hrd@sansad.nic.in*

Hindi version of this publication is also available

**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA**

**DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION, WOMEN, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND SPORTS**

THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY NINTH REPORT

**Demands for Grants 2023-24 of the
Department of School Education & Literacy**

*(Presented to the Rajya Sabha on 28th March, 2023)
(Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 28th March, 2023)*



सत्यमेव जयते

**Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi
March, 2023 /Chaitra, 1945 (Saka)**

CONTENTS

	PAGES
1. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE	(i)
2. INTRODUCTION	(ii)-(iv)
3. ACRONYMS	(v)-(X)
4. REPORT	1-38
5. OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE AT A GLANCE	39-44
6. MINUTES*	

* TO BE APPENDED

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE
(Constituted w.e.f. 13th September, 2022)

1. Shri Vivek Thakur - Chairman

RAJYA SABHA

2. Dr. Faiyaz Ahmad
3. Shri Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya
4. Ms. Sushmita Dev
5. *Dr. K. Keshava Rao
6. Shri Akhilesh Prasad Singh
7. Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu
8. Dr. M. Thambidurai
9. Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari
10. Shrimati Sangeeta Yadav

LOK SABHA

11. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
12. **Dr. T.R.Paarivendhar
13. Dr. Dhal Singh Bisen
14. ***
15. Shri Sangam Lal Kadedin Gupta
16. Shri Sri Krishna Devarayalu Lavu
17. Shri Ghanshyam Singh Lodhi
18. Shri Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande
19. Dr. Jaisiddeshwar Shivacharya Mahaswamiji
20. Shri Asit Kumar Mal
21. Shri Anubhav Mohanty
22. Shri Balak Nath
23. Shri Chandeshwar Prasad
24. Shri T. N. Prathapan
25. Shri Ratansinh Magansinh Rathod
26. Shri Jagannath Sarkar
27. Dr. Arvind Kumar Sharma
28. Shri Vishnu Datt Sharma
29. Shri Dharambir Singh
30. Shrimati Pratibha Singh
31. Shri S. Venkatesan

*Nominated w.e.f. 11.10.2022

** Nominated w.e.f. 16.11.2022

*** Vacant

SECRETARIAT

Shri Jagdish Kumar, Additional Secretary

Smt Nirmala Bhatt, Joint Secretary

Shri A.K. Mallick, Director

Shri Pritam Kumar, Deputy Secretary

Shri Vijay Kumar Rai, Under Secretary

Shri Agam Mittal, Assistant Committee Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on its behalf, do hereby present this Three Hundred and Forty Ninth Report of the Committee on the Demands for Grants (Demand No. 25) of the Department of School Education & Literacy for the year 2023-24.

2. In accordance with the constitutional requirement under Article 113, the estimated expenditure of the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India projected under various Demands for Grants for the upcoming financial year needs to be voted by Parliament. As a sequel thereto, Demands for Grants of the relevant Ministries/Departments stand referred to concerned Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee to make a close scrutiny thereof under Rule 270 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha). While making scrutiny of the Demands for Grants, the Committee has made an appraisal of the performance, programmes, schemes and policies of the Department of School Education and Literacy *vis-a-vis* expenditure made out of the Consolidated Fund of India in the current financial year.

3. The Budget allocations of the Ministry of Education have been sought under two demand Numbers, *i.e.*, Demand No. 25 pertains to the Department of School Education and Literacy and Demand No.26 pertains to Department of Higher Education. In this Report, a scrutiny of Demand No. 25 pertaining to the Department of School Education and Literacy of the Ministry of Education for the Financial Year 2023-24 has been made by the Committee. While scrutiny of Demand No. 26 pertaining to Department of Higher Education is covered in Report number 348th of the Committee.

4. During the course of examination of Demands, the Committee heard the views of the Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy; Commissioner, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS); Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS); Chairperson, National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS); Chairman, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE); Director, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT); and Director, National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), in its meeting held on 27th February, 2023.

5. The Committee, while making its observations/recommendations, has mainly relied upon the following:-

- (i) National Education Policy, 2020;
- (ii) Budget Speech of the Finance Minister on 1st February, 2023;
- (iii) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Department of School Education and Literacy for the year 2023-24;
- (iv) Detailed Explanatory Notes on the Demands for Grants (2023-24) received from the Department and the agencies/organizations of the Department of School Education and Literacy;
- (v) Expenditure Budget 2023-24;
- (vi) Output Outcome Framework 2023-24, Ministry of Education;
- (vii) Annual Report of the Ministry of Education for the year 2022-23 and the latest available Annual Reports of the agencies/organizations of the Department;
- (viii) Presentation made by the Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education;
- (ix) Presentations made by the heads of organizations/bodies- NVS, KVS, NIOS, CBSE, NCERT, NCTE, DAE & NBB under the administrative control of the Department of School Education and Literacy;
- (x) Written replies furnished by the Department of School Education and Literacy to the Questionnaires (Issues and Schemes & Budgetary Allocations) prepared by the committee; and
- (xi) Written clarification furnished by the Department of School Education and Literacy to the points/issues raised by Members in the sitting of the Committee.

6. The Report is based on facts, figures and submissions (both oral and written) tendered by Department and Organisations under the Department of School Education and Literacy, to the Committee.

7. The Committee wishes to express its thanks to the Secretary and officers of the Department of School Education and Literacy as well as Heads/Officers of the organizations/bodies under the administrative control of the Department for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the requisite information in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants of the Department.

8. The Committee considered and adopted the Report in its meeting held on 27th March, 2023 and presented to both Houses of Parliament on 28th March, 2023.

NEW DELHI
27th March, 2023
Chaitra, 6 /1945(Saka)

Shri Vivek Thakur
Chairman
Department-related Parliamentary
Standing Committee on Education, Women,
Children, Youth and Sports

ACRONMYS

AEC	Adult Education Centre
ASPIRE	Accelerating State Education Program to Improve Results
AADR	Annual Average Dropout Rate
B.Ed.	Bachelor of Education
BEO	Block Education Officer
BITE	Block Institute of Teacher Education
BoG	Board of Governors
BRC	Block Resource Centre
B.Voc	Bachelor of Vocational Education
CABE	Central Advisory Board of Education
CBCS	Choice Based Credit System
CBSE	Central Board of Secondary Education
CIET	Central Institute of Educational Technology
CNNS	Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey
COA	Council of Architecture
CPD	Continuous Professional Development
CTSA	Central Tibetan School Administration
CSS	Centrally Sponsored Schemes
CSNSS	Centrally Sponsored nutrition support schemes
CWSN	Children With Special Needs
DAE	Directorate of Adult Education
DHRUV	Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme
DIET	District Institute of Education and Training
DIKSHA	Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing
DoE	Department of Expenditure
DLIs	Disbursement Linked Indicators.

DSE	Directorate of School Education
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
EEC	Eminent Expert Committee
ESDP	Entrepreneurship cum Skill Development Program
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GER	Gross Enrolment Ratio
GFR	General Financial Rule
HECI	Higher Education Commission of India
ICAR	Indian Council for Agricultural Research
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDP	Institutional Development Plan
IIM	Indian Institute of Management
IIT	Indian Institute of Technology
IITI	Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation
IGISPS	Improvement in governance index scores in project States
ISSCR	Improvement in Secondary School Completion Rate
ISE	Inclusion in School Education'
ISL	Indian Sign Language
KRPs	Key Resource persons
KGBV	Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya
KVS	Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan
MDM	Mid Day Meal Scheme
M.Ed.	Master of Education
MERU	Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities
MME	Management, Monitoring and Evaluation
MoE	Ministry of Education
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

MSDE	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
MUSK	Madhyamik and Uchchatar Shiksha Kosh
MWCD	Ministry of Women and Child Development
NAS	National Achievement Survey
NBB	National Bal Bhavan
NCC	National Cadet Corps
NCERT	National Council of Educational Research and Training
NCF	National Curriculum Framework
NCFSE	National Curriculum Framework for School Education
NCFTE	National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education
NCIVE	National Committee for the Integration of Vocational Education
NCPFECCE	National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education
NCTE	National Council for Teacher Education
NCVET	National Council for Vocational Education and Training
NDA	National Development Agenda
NEP	National Policy on Education
NEP	National Education Policy
NETF	National Educational Technology Forum
NFSA	National Food Security Act
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIE	National Institute of Education
NIOS	National Institute of Open Schooling
NIN	National Institute of Nutrition

NITI	National Institution for Transforming India
NILP	New India Literacy Programme
NIESBUD	National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development
NMMSS	National Means- Cum- Merit Scholarship Scheme
NMCMShP	National Means Cum Merit Scholarship Scheme
NPST	National Professional Standards for Teachers
NRF	National Research Foundation
NSQF	National Skills Qualifications Framework
NSSO	National Sample Survey Office
NVS	Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti
OBC	Other Backward Classes
ODL	Open and Distance Learning
PARAKH	Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for
PAB	Holistic development Project Approval Board
PFMS	Public Financial Management System
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
Ph.D	Doctor of Philosophy
PM-POSHAN	Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman
PSSBs	Professional Standard Setting Bodies
PSSIVE	Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Institute of Vocational Education
PIPSHS	primary, upper primary, secondary, higher secondary
PMU	Project Management Unit
PMSFRI	PM Schools for Rising India
PTR	Pupil Teacher Ratio
RIEs	Regional Institutes of Education

RTE Act	The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009
SAS	State Achievement Survey
ASA	Strengthened assessment systems
SANKALP	Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for livelihood promotion
SARTHAQE	Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education
SC	Scheduled Caste
SCSP	Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan
SCDP	School Complex/Cluster Development Plans
SCERT	State Council of Educational Research and Training
SCF	State Curricular Framework
SCMC	School Complex Management Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SDP	School Development Plan
SEDG	Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Group
SEZ	Special Education Zone
SIOS	State Institutes of Open Schooling
SMC	School Management Committee
SQAAF	School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Framework
SSA	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
SSSA	State School Standards Authority
ST	Scheduled Tribe
STARS	Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
STS	Sanskrit Through Sanskrit

SWAYAM	Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds
TEI	Teacher Education Institution
TET	Teacher Eligibility Test
U-DISE	Unified District Information System for Education
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNO	United Nations Organization
UT	Union Territory

REPORT

1. OVERVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

1.1 Education forms the foundation of any society and it is a major factor in the economic, social, and political growth and development of a country. The growth of society depends upon the quality of education that is being imparted and the schools play an important role in moulding a nation's future by facilitating all round development of its citizens. Education system in general and schools in particular, thus plays a pivotal role in not only shaping the young minds but also central to nation building. It is in this backdrop, the Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports considered the Demands for Grants 2023-24 of the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education.

1.2 The Ministry of Education comprises two Departments, *namely*, (i) Department of School Education and Literacy and (ii) Department of Higher Education. Each of the Departments functions under the overall supervision of a Secretary.

1.3 The Department of School Education and Literacy decides the policy and programmes relating to school education, adult education and digital education with focus on quality, equity and inclusion. The main objectives of the Department are:

- Formulating the National Policy on school education and to ensure that it is implemented in letter and spirit.
- Planned development, including expanding access and improving quality of the school educational institutions throughout the country, including in the regions where people do not have easy access to education.
- Paying special attention to disadvantaged groups like the economically disadvantaged, females and the minorities
- Providing financial help in the form of scholarships, loan subsidy, etc, to deserving students from deprived sections of the society.
- Encouraging international cooperation in the field of education, including working closely with the UNESCO and foreign governments, to enhance the educational opportunities in the country.

1.4 The following Institutions under the Department are involved in policy formulation and implementation of various schemes relating to school education and adult education:

- a) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
- b) National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)
- c) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)
- d) National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)
- e) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)
- f) Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)
- g) Central Tibetan Schools Administration (CTSA)
- h) National Bal Bhavan (NBB)

1.5 The Department also administers the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, as amended from time to time. The Act mandates the appropriate

Government to provide free and compulsory elementary education to every child of the age 6 to 14 years in a neighbourhood school.

1.6 The major Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Department are as under:

- (i) Samagra Shiksha
- (ii) Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN)
- (iii) New India Literacy Programme (NILP)
- (iv) Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS)
- (v) PM-SHRI

2. OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2023-24) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

2.1 The Committee considered the Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Department of School Education and Literacy in its sitting held on 27th February, 2023. The Demand for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Education has been presented to Parliament under the following Demand Numbers.:

Demand No. 25- Department of School Education and Literacy

Demand No. 26- Department of Higher Education

This Report pertains to the Demands for Grants (Demand No. 25) relating to Department of School Education & Literacy.

2.2 The BE 2023-24 for Ministry of Education is Rs.1,12,899.47 crores which is 2.51% of the total budgetary allocations (Rs. 45,03,097.45 crores) for FY 2023-24. Out of which, Rs. 68,804.85 crores have been allocated to Department of School Education and Literacy and Rs. 44,094.62 crores have been allocated to Department of Higher Education. The share of Department of School Education & Literacy in the total outlay of Ministry of Education is Rs. 68,804.85 crores which is 60.94% of the budgetary allocations to the Ministry of Education.

2.3. The Department-wise projections made to the Ministry of Finance for BE 2023-24 along with the figures of expenditure of funds in Actuals (2021-22) and funds allocated/allocation sought in BE and RE (2022-23) and BE (2023-24) and the percentage change/variation in allocation in BE (2023-24) over BE (2022-23) for various institutions and bodies under the Department is given below:

TABLE-1

(Rs. in crore)

	Actual 2021-22	BE 2022-23		RE 2022-23		BE 2023-24		Various (Percentage)	
		Scheme	Non- scheme	Scheme	Non- Scheme	Scheme	Non- Scheme	BE 2023- 23 &BE 2023- 24	RE 2022- 23 & BE 2023- 24
Revenue	46821.51	51052.37	12397.00	46153.48	12899.30	54374.48	14429.82	8.44	16.61
Capital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.55		
Total	46821.51	51052.37	12397.00	46153.48	12899.30	54374.48	14430.37		
Grand Total	46821.51	51052.37	12397.00	46153.48	12899.30	54374.48	14430.37		
		63449.37		59052.78		68804.85			

2.4 The detailed break-up of the allocation under Scheme and Non-Scheme in Revenue Heads in BE and RE (2022-23) and BE (2023-24) and percentage change/variation in allocations and utilization is given below:

TABLE-2

(Rs. in crore)

S.No	Name of the Department	Actuals 2021-22	BE 2022-23		RE 2022-23		Projections made to MoF for 2023-24	BE2023-24			% change BE 2022-23 to BE 2023-24	Variation between projections and BE 2023-24 (%)
			Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital		Revenue	Capital	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Department Of School Education And Literacy	4682 1.51	6344 9.37	0.00	5905 2.78	0.00	72280. 88	6880 4.30	0.55	6880 4.85	8.44	5.05
	TOTAL	4682 1.51	6344 9.37	0.00	5905 2.78	0.00	72280. 88	6880 4.30	0.55	6880 4.85		
	GRAND TOTAL	4682 1.51	6344 9.37	0.00	5905 2.78	0.00	7228.8 8	6880 4.30	0.00	6880 4.85		

2.5 The scheme-wise details of expenditure of Department of School Education & Literacy as on 1st February, 2023 with respect to Revised Estimates 2022-23 is as under:

TABLE-3

(Rs. in crores)

SI No.	SCHEMES/NON SCHEMES	2022-23			
		BE	RE	Actuals as on 07.02.2023	Unutilized Funds as on Date
A	Schemes				
I	Centrally Sponsored Schemes				
1.	Samagra Shiksha	37383.36	32151.66	19892.07	12259.59
2.	Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN)	10233.75	12800.00	7542.20	5257.80
3.	New India Literacy Programme (NILP)	127.00	100.00	40.10	59.90
4.	Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS)	550.00	400.00	154.02	245.98
5.	EXEMPLAR/PM SHRI	1800.00	398.00	0.00	398.00
6.	ASPIRE	600.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
	Total Centrally Sponsored	50694.11	45849.67	27628.39	18221.28

	Schemes				
II	Central Sector Schemes				
7.	National Means Cum Merit Scholarship Scheme	350.00	300.00	140.12	159.88
8.	National Award to Teachers	5.00	3.80	3.73	0.07
9.	Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme (DHRUV)	3.26	0.01	0.00	0.01
	Total Central Sector Schemes	358.26	303.81	143.85	159.96
	Total Schemes	51052.37	46153.48	27772.24	18381.24
B	Non-Schemes				
III	Other Central Sector Expenditure				
10.	Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)	7650.00	7512.00	6308.37	1203.63
11.	Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)	4115.00	4920.30	4220.55	699.75
12.	NCERT	510.00	405.00	281.71	123.29
13.	Central Tibetan Schools Administration	62.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	National Bal Bhawan	22.00	22.00	14.89	7.11
	Total Autonomous Bodies	12359.00	12859.30	10825.52	2033.78
IV	Establishment Expenditure				
15.	Secretariat	35.00	37.00	27.44	9.56
16.	Directorate of Adult Education	3.00	3.00	1.98	1.02
	Total - Establishment	38.00	40.00	29.42	10.58
	Total Non-Schemes	12397.00	12899.30	10854.94	2044.36
	Grand Total	63449.37	59052.78	38627.18	20425.60

2.6 The details of projections of funds made and allocated in BE (2023-24) for schemes/projects under the Department and percentage change/variations over BE/RE (2022-23) are as under:

TABLE-4

(Rs. in crore)

Sl No.	Name of the Unit/Scheme (s)	Actuals 2021-22	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	BE 2023-24 (Proposed)	BE 2023-24	BE 2023-24 over RE 2022-23	BE 2023-24 over Projections to MoF	BE 2023-24 Over BE 2022-23
--------	-----------------------------	-----------------	------------	------------	-----------------------	------------	----------------------------	------------------------------------	----------------------------

1.	Samagra Shiksha	25060.89	37383.36	32151.66	37985.37	37453.47	5301.81	-531.90	70.11
2.	PM Poshan	10230.98	10233.75	12800.00	13053.00	11600.00	-1200.00	-1453.00	1366.25
3.	NILP	2.1	127.00	100.00	157.06	157.00	57.00	-0.06	30.00
4.	STARS	313.43	550.00	400.00	1000.00	800.00	400.00	-200.00	250.00
5.	PM SHRI	0	1800.00	398.00	4000.00	4000.00	3602.00	0.00	2200.00
6.	ASPIRE	0	600.00	0.01	1.00	0.00	-0.01	-1.00	-600.00
7.	National Means Cum Merit Scholarship Scheme	251.98	350.00	300.00	375.92	364.00	64.00	-11.92	14.00
8.	National Award to Teachers	0.8	5.00	3.80	5.00	0.00	-3.80	-5.00	-5.00
9.	Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme (DHRUV)	0	3.26	0.01	3.58	0.01	0.00	-3.57	-3.25
10.	Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)	6800	7650.00	7512.00	9371.42	8363.98	851.98	-1007.44	713.98
11.	Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)	3740	4115.00	4920.30	5707.00	5486.50	566.20	-220.50	1371.50
12.	NCERT	319.74	510.00	405.00	558.00	518.50	113.50	-39.50	8.50
13.	Central Tibetan Schools Administration	52.94	62.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-62.00
14.	National Bal Bhawan	20.04	22.00	22.00	23.03	22.38	0.38	-0.65	0.38
15.	Secretariat	26.44	35.00	37.00	36.00	36.01	-0.99	0.01	1.01
16.	Directorate of Adult Education	2.17	3.00	3.00	4.50	3.00	0.00	-1.50	0.00
	Grand Total	46821.51	63449.37	59052.78	72280.88	68804.85	9752.07	-3476.03	5355.48

2.7 The Head-wise outlay for Department of School Education & Literacy for FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24 is given as under:

a) Samagra Shiksha- Rs.37453.47 Cr.

- b) Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN)- Rs.11600.00 Cr.
- c) New India Literacy Programme (NILP)- Rs.157.00 Cr.
- d) Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS.)- Rs.800.00 Cr.
- e) PM Shri- Rs.4000.00 Cr.
- f) National Means Cum Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)- Rs.364.00 Cr.
- g) Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme (DHRUV)- Rs.0.01 Cr.
- h) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)- Rs.8363.98 Cr.
- i) Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)- Rs.5486.50 Cr.
- j) NCERT- Rs.518.50 Cr.
- k) National Bal Bhawan (NBB)- Rs.22.38 Cr.
- l) Secretariat- Rs.36.01 Cr.
- m) Directorate of Adult Education (DAE)- Rs.3.00 Cr.

2.8 Out of the Total BE of Rs. 68,804.85 Cr. in 2023-24, budgetary allocation for Establishment, Autonomous Bodies (ABs), and Schemes is as under:-

- (i) Establishment: Rs.39.01 Cr.
- (ii) Autonomous Bodies (ABs): 14391.36 Cr.
- (iii) Schemes :
 - a. Centrally Sponsored: Rs. 54,010.47 Cr.
 - b. Central Sector: Rs. 364.01 Cr.

2.9 The Committee appreciates that there is an increase of 16.5% in BE 2023-24 as compared to RE 2022-23.

3. SCHEMES/PROGRAMMES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES

TABLE-5

(Rs. in crore)

Centrally Sponsored Schemes	Actuals 2021-22	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	Actuals (upto 31.01.2023)	BE 2023-24
Samagra Shiksha	25060.89	37383.36	32151.66	19926.23	37453.47
Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN)	10230.98	10233.75	12800.00	6786.19	11600.00
New India Literacy Programme (NILP)	2.10	127.00	100.00	38.37	157.00
Strengthening Teaching Learning And Results for States (STARS)	313.43	550.00	400.00	154.02	800.00
PM SHRI	0.00	1800.00	398.00	0.00	4000.00
Accelerating State Education Program to Improve Results (ASPIRE)	0.00	600.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Total Central Sponsored Schemes	35607.40	50694.11	45849.67	26904.81	54010.47

3.1 SAMAGRA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

3.1.1 The Department of School Education & Literacy has informed that it has launched Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan as an Integrated Scheme on school education which envisages the 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to Senior Secondary levels. The Scheme is in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal for Education (SDG-4) and has now been aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 that is to ensure inclusive and equitable, quality and holistic school education. 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 the learning process. It was also informed that the scheme was initially approved from 2018-19 to 2020-21 and has now been revised and extended upto 2025-26 with an estimated outlay of Rs. 2,94,283.04 crore, with

major changes aligning it to the vision of National Education Policy 2020. The National Education Policy 2020 aims to address the many growing developmental imperatives of the country. This Policy proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of the education structure, including its regulation and governance, to create a new system that is aligned with the aspirational goals of 21st century education, including SDG4, while building upon India's traditions and value systems.

3.1.2 The major objectives of the Scheme are:

Support States and UTs in implementing the recommendations of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020);

- (i) Support States in implementation of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009;
- (ii) Focus on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE);
- (iii) Emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy;
- (iv) Thrust on Holistic, Integrated, Inclusive and activity-based Curriculum and
- (v) 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 a nodal agency for teacher training;
- (x) Ensuring safe, secure and conducive learning environment and minimum standards in schooling provisions; and
- (xi) Promoting vocational education

3.1.3 The Department has informed that during 2018-19 to 2022-23, the following achievements have been made under the Scheme:

Table -6

Activities	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-2023 (15.12.2022)
No. of OoSC provided special training at elementary level	4.78 lakh	5.07 lakh	3.26 lakh	8.61 lakh	3.96 lakh
Children were provided transport and escort facility	4.24 lakh	6.78 lakh	2.42 lakh	6.66 lakh	3.20 lakh
Children were covered under Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act	16.76 lakh	21.58 lakh	32.67 lakh	25.40 lakh	13.96 lakh
Free uniforms	7.09 cr	6.68 cr	6.83 cr	6.15cr	5.03 cr

Free textbooks	8.85cr	8.80 cr	8.84 cr	9.44cr	6.62 cr
Remedial teaching	74.4 Lakhs	1.76 cr	1.44 cr	1.23 cr	1.76 cr
Teachers trained	14.15 lakh	29.13 lakh	14.59 lakh	26.64 lakh	3.46 lakh
No. of Schools provided Self-defence training to girls	69,173	1,66,528	83,021	1,19,283	62,692
CWSN girls given stipend	3.79 lakh	3.22 lakh	3.68 lakh	4.02 lakh	1.79 lakh
Special educators funded	23,183	24,030	23,331	25,999	20,323

Budgetary Allocations vis-à-vis Actual Utilization as on 31st January, 2023

3.1.4. The details of fund under SSA for the last three Financial Years are as under:-

Table -7

(Rs. In Crore)

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan	Actuals 2021-22	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	Actuals as on 31.01.2023	BE 2023-24
		25060.89	37383.36	32151.66	19926.23

3.1.5 Department was provided an outlay of Rs. 37383.36 crores in BE 2022-23. However, at RE 2022-23 stage, it was reduced to Rs. 32151.66 crores. Out of this, the Department has been able to utilize only Rs. 19926.23 crores as on 31st January, 2023. Under BE 2023-24, it has been increased to Rs. 37453.47 crores which is nearly 16% more as compared to allocation under RE 2022-23 stage. However, it is nearly double the actual utilization as on 31st January, 2023 under the scheme.

3.1.6 During oral evidence of Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, during examination of DFG (2023-24) on 27th February, 2023, the Committee desired to know the reasons for reduction in budgetary allocations under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. In response, the Committee was informed that as far as Samagra Shiksha is concerned, the BE for 2022-23 is Rs. 37383.36 Crore and RE is Rs. 32,150 Crore. There is a decrease of Rs. 5,233.36 Crore in the estimate for 2022-23. The reasons for this reduction is slow pace of expenditure and delayed release of funds because of the new procedure for release of funds which is already under effect since 1st July, 2021. For strict compliance of modified procedure for release of funds under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, the proposal for adhoc grants could be processed only if 75% expenditure of previous year grants is achieved. As majority of the States/UTs were not able to meet this condition, 1st instalment of the grant (adhoc+1st instalment) was released to the States/UTs only when they achieved 75% expenditure criterion. This resulted in delay in release of funds to States/UTs under Samagra Shiksha and thus, there was a reduction in RE for 2022-23.

3.1.7 As informed by the Department, the BE, RE and release of funds made under Samagra Shiksha during 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 are as under:

Table -8

(Rs. In crore)

Year	BE	RE	Central Releases
2020-21	38750.50	27957.32	27758.52
2021-22	31050.15	30000.00	24873.18
2022-23	37383.36	32150.00	19779.58*
2023-24	37452.47	----	----

* The fund transfer under the new procedure is through Singal Nodal Agency (SNA), which is operational in almost all States/UTs. It is expected that the remaining funds will be released to utilise the RE amount of Rs. 32,150.00 crore before the end of this financial year. Also, as Covid-19 has subsided, SNA functioning has been stabilized thus, the expenditure in all probability should increase in the forthcoming years.

3.1.8 The Committee appreciates the enhanced allocations under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan which has witnessed increase of around 16% in BE 2023-24 as compared to RE 2022-23. The Committee suggests that mechanism for faster utilisation should consistently be reviewed.

3.1.9 The Committee notes that there has been slow pace of utilization of released funds by implementing agencies i.e. the State Governments and tardy pace of submission of Utilization Certificates by them. However, it is commendable that Department has made Single Nodal Account (SNA) functional in almost all States/UTs and hopes that fund utilization would improve from this Financial Year.

3.1.10 While replying to a query regarding the total number of primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary schools in the country as on 31st December, 2022, it was informed by the Department that the total number of schools by school category (primary, upper primary, secondary, higher secondary) as per the UDISE/ UDISE+ data of corresponding years as detailed below:-

Table -9

India/ State/UT	Total	Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
India	1489115	760460	435805	150452	142398
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	416	218	76	53	69
Andhra Pradesh	61948	38430	8477	11877	3164
Arunachal Pradesh	3603	1847	1273	319	164
Assam	60859	40482	10672	7290	2415
Bihar	93165	42505	38185	3855	8620
Chandigarh	233	21	39	71	102
Chhattisgarh	56512	32723	16442	2737	4610
Daman and Diu and	460	184	177	45	54

Dadra and Nagar Haveli					
Delhi	5619	2594	826	357	1842
Goa	1510	892	75	420	123
Gujarat	53851	13827	27260	4638	8126
Haryana	23726	9716	5423	3009	5578
Himachal Pradesh	18028	11085	2677	1728	2538
Jammu and Kashmir	28805	14824	9565	3150	1266
Jharkhand	44855	23706	16201	3191	1757
Karnataka	76450	24470	30924	15385	5671
Kerala	16240	6812	4515	1941	2972
Ladakh	978	379	437	112	50
Lakshadweep	38	16	9	0	13
Madhya Pradesh	125582	62413	45106	8306	9757
Maharashtra	109605	51152	29841	17741	10871
Manipur	4617	2422	966	958	271
Meghalaya	14600	9223	3529	1462	386
Mizoram	3911	1481	1519	706	205
Nagaland	2718	1157	787	576	198
Odisha	62291	29326	21049	9497	2419
Puducherry	736	275	74	190	197
Punjab	27701	13536	4642	4186	5337
Rajasthan	106373	38983	35984	10775	20631
Sikkim	1259	685	307	150	117
Tamil Nadu	58801	35062	9243	5499	8997
Telangana	43083	20711	7688	12045	2639
Tripura	4929	2522	1226	702	479
Uttar Pradesh	258054	138078	86430	12783	20763
Uttarakhand	22815	13404	5426	1407	2578
West Bengal	94744	75299	8735	3291	7419

Data Source: UDISE+2021-22

3.1.11 The Department while replying to a query regarding the enrolment rate *vis-à-vis* drop-out rate of children in schools with respect to SC, ST, OBCs and girl children in primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary levels for the States and UTs, submitted the following information:

Enrolment *vis-à-vis* drop-out rate of all children with SC, ST and girl children from the year 2017-18 to 2021-22 is as under:

Table -10

Indicator	Category	Level	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)	Overall	Primary	94.21	101.25	102.74	103.28	103.39
		Upper Primary	90.90	87.74	89.67	92.17	94.67
		Elementary	93.03	96.09	97.78	99.09	100.13
		Secondary	79.38	76.90	77.90	79.77	79.56

	SC	Higher Secondary	56.50	50.14	51.42	53.79	57.56
		Primary	102.53	111.50	113.11	113.66	113.10
		Upper Primary	97.76	95.19	97.07	99.95	103.79
		Elementary	100.84	105.32	107.09	108.56	109.66
		Secondary	83.70	82.73	83.02	84.79	90.39
	ST	Higher Secondary	56.72	51.34	52.89	56.06	61.49
		Primary	101.91	106.66	107.11	106.72	106.50
		Upper Primary	99.23	92.92	93.48	95.77	97.95
		Elementary	100.98	101.57	102.08	102.68	103.35
		Secondary	77.49	75.35	76.72	78.60	80.90
		Higher Secondary	46.07	42.24	42.89	45.15	52.02

Annual Average Dropout Rate	Overall	Primary	3.5	4.5	1.5	0.8	1.5
		Upper Primary	5.0	4.7	2.6	2.3	3.0
		Elementary	4.0	4.5	1.9	1.3	2.0
		Secondary	18.5	17.9	16.1	14.0	12.6
	SC	Primary	4.9	5.3	1.8	0.9	1.5
		Upper Primary	6.6	6.2	3.8	3.3	3.6
		Elementary	5.5	5.6	2.5	1.7	2.2
		Secondary	21.6	20.4	18.6	15.3	12.6
	ST	Primary	3.7	5.5	3.8	2.5	2.8
		Upper Primary	6.0	6.7	6.1	5.0	6.0
		Elementary	4.5	5.9	4.6	3.4	3.9
		Secondary	21.9	24.9	24.2	20.9	16.6

3.1.12 RTE Act, 2009 which led to insertion of Article 21-A in the Constitution of India has made Right of child and free compulsory education of children in the age group of 6-14 years as a fundamental right. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department should request and pursue with the concerned Ministry/Department to come onboard for setting up infrastructures required to hold online classes in the far flung and

remotest areas in the country in order to ensure the benefits enshrined under RTE Act, 2009. At the same time it should be ensured that nutritional support reaches to the beneficiaries involved in attending online classes.

3.1.13 The Department while replying to a query regarding the current status of recruitment of permanent/ad-hoc teachers and trainee staff under Samagra Shiksha (SS) at primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary level along with the details of backlog of vacancies for the last five years ending 31stDecember, 2022, year-wise, informed the following:

Table -11

S.No	Category	Sanctioned			Working			Vacant		
		State	SS	Total	State	SS	Total	State	SS	Total
2022-23										
1.	Elementary	3048334	1761892	4810226	2673024	1389637	4062661	375310	372255	747565
2.	Secondary	844450	122674	967124	727659	93131	820790	116791	29543	146334
3.	Higher Secondary	494030	0	494030	401364	0	401364	92666	0	92666
	Total	4386814	1884566	6271380	3802047	1482768	5284815	584767	401798	986565
2021-22										
Sl. No	Category	Sanctioned			Working			Vacant		
		State	SS	Total	State	SS	Total	State	SS	Total
1.	Elementary	3074861	1906272	4981133	2623165	1320697	3943862	451696	585575	1037271
2.	Secondary	832440	110843	943283	732240	81705	813945	100200	29138	129338
3.	Higher Secondary	447609	0	447609	359445	0	359445	88164	0	88164
	Total	4354910	2017115	6372025	3714850	1402402	5117252	640060	614713	1254773

3.1.14 The Committee observes that there are 9,86,565 vacancies of teachers against the sanctioned strength of 62,71,380 at the State Level, out of which, 7,47,565 posts at elementary level, 1,46,334 at secondary level and 92,666 at higher secondary level are vacant. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department should encourage the State Governments to expedite the recruitment process to fill up the vacancies of teaching staffs in a time-bound manner to achieve 30:1 pupil-teacher ratio as envisaged under New Education Policy, 2020. It is also observed that in many States, teacher recruitment process is not transparent and is cumbersome. Therefore, the Committee recommends that Autonomous Teacher Recruitment Board should be formed at State level as recommended by some Education Committees.

3.1.15 In response to a query regarding the funding mechanism of the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBVs) and their presence in various States and UTs till date along with the budgetary support that is provided to them, it was informed by the Department that KGBV is a provision under Samagra Shiksha. Funds for KGBVs are released as a part of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha by the Centre and the States in the ratio of 90:10 for Himalayan States and 60:40 for other States. In the draft framework of Samagra Shiksha, the ceiling of recurring grant for each type of KGBV is fixed as under to account for all expenses including manpower cost:

- for KGBVs for classes VI to VIII (Type-I) - upto Rs. 60 lakh per annum
- for KGBVs for classes VI to X (Type-II) - upto Rs. 80 lakh per annum
- for KGBVs for classes VI to XII (Type-III) - upto Rs. 1 crore per annum
- for existing Stand-alone Girls' Hostels for classes IX to XII (Type-I) - upto Rs. 40 lakh per annum.

3.1.16 It was also informed by the Department that the States may take various initiatives/projects from their own budget. As on 31st January, 2022, the status of KGBVs is as under:

Table -12

KGBVs Sanctioned	KGBVs functional	Girls Enrolled										Total Girls enrolled
		SC		ST		BPL		OBC		Muslims		
		No. of Girls	% of Girls	No. of Girls	% of Girls	No. of Girls	% of Girls	No. of Girls	% of Girls	No. of Girls	% of Girls	
5646	4241	185969	27.47	177082	26.15	46037	6.80	241777	35.72	26076	3.86	676941

(Source:Prabandh)

3.1.17 Funds estimated for KGBVs as a part of Samagra Shiksha from the year 2018-19 to 2022-23 are as under:

Table -13

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Amount
2018-19	450968.75
2019-20	526935.33
2020-21	480050.83
2021-22	392899.29
2022-23	532636.34

(Including spill over)

3.1.18 As regards the plans for integration of KGBVs with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, it was informed that a Specific Skill Training is already being provided to girls of KGBVs, for which States appoint vocational instructors in KGBVs to provide need based vocational education to girls. The States generally pick up courses based on the choice and need of the girls in the KGBV and funds for this purpose are being provided by the Department. Additionally, some of the States have started certificate based vocational courses in KGBVs under the provision of vocational education under Samagra Shiksha or through NIOS/State agencies. Further, to provide broad perspective and widen scope of employability to girls studying in KGBVs, provision of vocationalization of Secondary Education under Samagra 2.0 is being extended for KGBV also and in this regard, all States and UTs having KGBVs, have been requested to propose introduction of Vocational Education in Secondary and Senior Secondary classes (Type II and III) in KGBVs and also to explore the possibility of covering the KGBVs under hub and spoke model of Vocational Education under Samagra 2.0. States have also been requested to include proposal of Vocational Education in KGBVs in the Annual Work Plan and Budget of Samagra Shiksha for consideration of Project Approval Board's meeting.

3.1.19 It was also informed that the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) under Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is implementing the Entrepreneurship cum Skill Development Program (ESDP) for KGBV Students of Class XI and XII at Pan India level sponsored under Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for livelihood promotion (SANKALP) project of MSDE. The said program aims to create, foster and promote the spirit of entrepreneurship among the target group through Capacity Building Mentoring and Handholding support. Further, the objective of the program is to change the mind set of students, develop entrepreneurial competency, entrepreneurial values and attitude among target groups making them self-reliant so that they may pursue entrepreneurship in future. For the Entrepreneurship cum Skill Development of KGBV students, following areas have been identified by NIESBUD:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (i) Agri and Allied Business; | (ii) Forest Based Produces; |
| (iii) Food processing; | (iv) Handicrafts and Art Crafts; |
| (v) Tourism and Hospitality; | (vi) Mobile Sale & Service; |
| (vii) Beauty & Wellness; | (viii) Fashion Design; |
| (ix) Health Care; | (x) Green Business; |
| (xi) Electronics; | (xii) Packaging. |

3.1.20 It was also informed that initially, NIESBUD has selected eight States namely Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh to implement the programme.

3.1.21 The Committee appreciates the increased budgetary allocations during 2023-24 against allocations of Rs. 5,326.36 crores in 2022-23 under Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) and also appreciates the efforts/initiatives taken for encouraging education among girl child. The Committee also appreciates the initiatives of the Department for taking up with the States for inclusion of proposals of vocational education in KGBVs in the Annual Work Plan and budget of Samagra Shiksha for consideration of Project Approval Boards meeting. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department should accelerate the process of inclusion of the proposals of vocational education under KGBVs to ensure its inclusion at the earliest. The Department should also pursue for the coverage of KGBVs under hub and spoke model of vocational education under Samagra Shiksha 2.0.

3.2 PRADHAN MANTRI POSHAN SHAKTI NIRMAN (PM POSHAN) SCHEME

3.2.1 As informed by the Department, Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Scheme (PM POSHAN), is an on-going Centrally-Sponsored Scheme which covers all school children studying in Classes I-VIII of Government, Government-Aided schools and children studying in Bal Vatika (just before class I) in Government primary schools. The objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Scheme are to address two of the pressing problems for majority of children in India, viz. hunger and education by:

- a) Improving the nutritional status of children studying in classes I – VIII in Government and Government-Aided Schools and in Bal Vatika (just before class I) in Government Primary schools.
- b) Encouraging poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities.
- c) Providing nutritional support to children of elementary stage in drought / disaster affected areas during summer vacation and disaster times.

3.2.2 It was also informed by the Department that during the last five years the scheme has witnessed several major achievements/improvements as indicated below:

- a) Annual increase in cooking cost linked to Inflation Index.
- b) Supply of fortified rice at NFSA rate
- c) Revision of the transportation rate from Rs. 75 per quintal, for non-special category of States to PDS rate (maximum of Rs.150 per quintal).
- d) Revision of Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (MME) rate from 2% to 3% of the total admissible recurring Central Assistance.
- e) The assistance for kitchen devices has been enhanced from flat rate of Rs. 5,000 per school to Rs. 10,000 – Rs. 25,000 per school based on enrolment.
- f) A new component of Rs. 10,000 for repair of more than 10 year old kitchen-cum-store has been introduced.
- g) Rs. 50 crore has been allocated for fortification of food items in a systematic manner.
- h) Delegation of the power of implementing the scheme with minor modifications from the existing guidelines to District Level Committee Chaired by the District Magistrate.
- i) The States and UTs have been given flexibility to utilize, with the prior approval of Ministry of Education, 5% of their Annual Work Plan & Budget for new interventions.
- j) Concept of community participation in the form of Tithi Bhojan will be encouraged under which people from the community celebrate important days such as child birth, marriage, birthdays etc., by contributing to the PM-POSHAN Scheme.
- k) Setting up a School Nutrition Garden (also called Kitchen Garden) seeks to achieve a similar goal as it acts both as a place and an activity where children learn the skill of growing their own food.
- l) Cooking competitions at Block, District and State levels to promote innovative menus.
- m) During Covid-19 pandemic, all the enrolled children have been provided Food Security Allowance.
- n) States have been advised to conduct social audit in all districts.
- o) Comprehensive guidelines under PM POSHAN Scheme have been issued.

3.2.3 As informed by the Department, the details of enrolment of children and institutions for the last 5 years are given below:

Table -14

Year	Children (in crore)	Institutions (in lakh)
2017-18	12.33	11.34
2018-19	11.98	11.34
2019-20	12.04	11.20
2020-21	11.80	11.20
2021-22	12.21	10.84

3.2.4 Budgetary Allocations vis-à-vis Actual Utilization under PM POSHAN as on 31st January, 2023 is as under:

Table -15

(Rs. In crore)

Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Scheme (PM POSHAN)	Actuals 2021-22	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	Actuals as on 31.01.2023	BE 2023-24
		10230.98	10233.75	12800.00	6786.19

3.2.5 Department was provided an outlay of Rs. 10233.75 crores in BE 2022-23 under the Scheme. However, at RE 2022-23 stage, it was increased to Rs. 12800 crores. Out of this, the Department has been able to utilize nearly 54% i.e. Rs. 6786.19 crores as on 31st January, 2023. Under BE 2023-24, it has been increased to Rs. 11600 crores which is nearly 13.5% high as compared to allocation under BE 2022-23 stage.

3.2.6 During oral evidence before the Committee, Department of School Education & Literacy, the Secretary has informed the Committee that the details of utilization of the funds (both in monetary & percentage terms) under PM-POSHAN Scheme are as under:

Table -16

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Financial Year	BE	RE	Central releases/ Expenditure	Reasons for savings
<u>2020-21</u>					
1.		11000.00	12900.00	12882.11 (99.87%)	i. Advertisement & Publicity Activities under the scheme could not be carried out due to COVID - 19 Pandemic.
<u>2021-22</u>					
2.		10233.75	10233.75	10233.75 (100%)	100% allocated budget released to States/UTs under the scheme during 2021-22. However, 2nd instalment could not be released/partially released to States and UTs due to paucity of funds during 2021-22

2022-23

3.		10233.75	12800.00	7337.91 utilization till 16th February, 2023	Release of grants to States and UTs is a continuous process. Central assistance is being released as and when the proposals are received from the States and UTs.
-----------	--	-----------------	-----------------	--	---

3.2.7 The Committee observes that during the financial year 2022-23 upto 16th February, 2023, Rs. 7,337.91 crores have been utilized under PM-POSHAN scheme out of the allocated amount of Rs. 10,233.75 crores for the same in BE 2022-23. The Committee appreciates that under BE 2023-24, it has again been increased to Rs. 11,600 crores which is nearly 13.5% higher as compared to allocation under BE 2022-23 stage. The Committee observes that sufficient fund is available for PM-POSHAN Scheme as Centrally Sponsored Scheme and enhanced allocation for the same has been kept for the Financial Year 2023-24. Due to non receipt of proposals from certain States/UTs, utilisation gets hampered. The Department should extend assistance/guidance and encourage the most needy States by hand holding so that proposals are received timely from these States/UTs so that they are able to reap the benefits of this great initiative/scheme. The Committee appreciates the improvement in the situation of malnutrition, which was seconded by the NFHS-V as compared to NFHS-IV.

3.2.8 The Department was asked about formulating a diet chart for a student taking the nutrition value and calorific value into consideration particularly, wheat, millet and protein based items under this scheme. It was informed that, as per the provisions of National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 children studying in classes I-VIII or within the age group of 6-14 years, are entitled to one mid-day meal free of charge, every day except on school holidays, in all Government and Government aided schools so as to meet nutritional standards specified in the Act. Accordingly, one hot cooked meal is provided to eligible children on all working school days under PM POSHAN scheme. The scheme is implemented in partnership with the States and UTs. The overall responsibilities for providing freshly cooked and nutritious meal to the eligible children lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Central Government. The States and UTs fix their menu according to their local needs, in order to meet the nutritional content as prescribed in the Schedule II of National Food Security Act, 2013. The following nutritional and food norms have been prescribed under the Scheme to meet the nutritional standards specified in the National Food Security Act *i.e.* 450 kcal and 12 grams protein for primary children and 700 kcal and 20 grams protein for upper primary children.

Table -17

Items	For children of Primary classes	For children of Upper Primary classes
A) Nutritional Norms (Per child per day)		
Calorie	450 kcal	700 kcal
Protein	12 gms	20 gms
B) Quantum of Food Norms (Per child per day)		
Foodgrains (rice/wheat / millets)	100 gms	150 gms
Pulses	20 gms	30 gms
Vegetables	50 gms	75 gms
Oil & fat	5 gms	7.5 gms
Salt & condiments	As per need	As per need

3.2.9 As informed by the Department, PM POSHAN Scheme is one of the foremost rights based Centrally Sponsored nutrition support schemes. The scheme covered 7.77 Crore children enrolled in 6.75 lakh primary schools and 4.44 crore children enrolled in 4.09 lakh upper primary schools. The State-wise and UT-wise details of students/schools which are beneficiaries under the Mid-Day Meal (MDM)/ PM-POSHAN including the primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary level schools which are covered under this Scheme are given as under:

Table -18

S.No.	State/UT	Enrolment			Institution		
		Primary	Upper Primary	Total	Primary	Upper Primary	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2222448	1329042	3551490	34898	10282	45180
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	114142	59224	173366	1671	1158	2829
3.	Assam	2804753	1554404	4359157	38889	13067	51956
4.	Bihar	11780859	6190587	17971446	39363	30970	70333
5.	Chhattisgarh	1908765	1124263	3033028	31610	13721	45331
6.	Goa	94702	65925	160627	1022	447	1469
7.	Gujarat	3376772	1876965	5253737	12698	19847	32545
8.	Haryana	1146665	619327	1765992	8688	5742	14430
9.	Himachal pradesh	306639	212850	519489	10729	4783	15512
10.	Jharkhand	2704739	1472999	4177738	21685	13905	35590
11.	Karnataka	3000276	1820256	4820532	21024	33150	54174
12.	Kerala	1856982	1133267	2990249	6739	5586	12325
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4145261	2478433	6623694	80994	30763	111757
14.	Maharashtra	5995405	4054364	10049769	46481	39237	85718
15.	Manipur	130521	39235	169756	2298	989	3287
16.	Meghalaya	396669	202135	598804	7938	3288	11226
17.	Mizoram	98594	44877	143471	1408	1087	2495
18.	Nagaland	109578	35553	145131	1043	950	1993
19.	Orissa	2730680	1733761	4464441	27739	23407	51146
20.	Punjab	1122216	728997	1851213	12978	6751	19729

21.	Rajasthan	4419867	2502608	6922475	32321	35006	67327
22.	Sikkim	28431	21244	49675	481	386	867
23.	Tamil Nadu	2641063	1923088	4564151	27073	16117	43190
24.	Telangana	1122390	668357	1790747	18728	8652	27380
25.	Tripura	258395	156037	414432	4345	2130	6475
26.	Uttar Pradesh	13704128	6361235	20065363	87854	54142	141996
27.	Uttarakhand	440077	271685	711762	11673	5233	16906
28.	West Bengal	7328203	4530992	11859195	67699	16246	83945
29.	A&N Islands	15583	12339	27922	183	150	333
30.	Chandigarh	54180	41422	95602	7	115	122
31.	D&NH &Daman&Diu	42863	26094	68957	208	156	364
32.	Delhi	1021263	787414	1808677	1814	1241	3055
33.	Jammu & Kashmir	546181	298421	844602	12554	9398	21952
34.	Ladakh	10834	5085	15919	355	462	817
35.	Lakshadweep	5236	2652	7888	16	15	31
36.	Puducherry	33059	22552	55611	236	190	426
Total		77718419	44407689	122126108	675442	408769	1084211

3.2.10 The Department informed that no study/assessment has been conducted by any independent agency during the years 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 under the PM POSHAN Scheme. However, NITI AAYOG has conducted the evaluation of the Scheme through an independent third-party agency in 2019-20. The salient findings of the evaluation carried out by different agencies i.e. NITI AAYOG (2019-20), National Institute of Nutrition (2017-18) are given below:

(i) Evaluation by NITI AAYOG during 2019-20

NITI AAYOG conducted independent 3rd party evaluation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme during 2019-2020. Major findings are as under:

- a) The scheme is relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2 and 4 as well as to the National Development Agenda of 'Inclusion in School Education'.
- b) MDM is one of the important meals of the day for students and in some cases the only meal for first half of the day.
- c) The scheme is effective as it has well defined, realistic targets based on beneficiary approach.
- d) Nutritional level among students availing MDM is reported to have improved as attributed by Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (2016-2018).
- e) It positively impacts and caters to the education sector needs and outcomes, especially at primary and upper primary level.
- f) The scheme is especially important to people from disadvantaged background (both socially and economically).

(ii) Evaluation under the leadership of National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) during 2017-18

3rd party evaluation of the MDM Scheme in 70 districts of 20 States and UTs was conducted in 2017-18 under the leadership of National Institute of Nutrition (NIN). The major findings of the report are given below:

- a) 92% of the students attending schools were availing MDM;
- b) 87% students liked the taste of MDM;
- c) 72% children opined that MDM helped them concentrate more in the class room studies;
- d) 96% parents opined that the MDM is beneficial to their children;
- e) More than 80% parents stated MDM increased the enrolment & attendance, improved nutritional and health status of their children;
- f) 96% teachers mentioned that MDM improved the nutritional status of the school children;
- g) 92% teachers stated that MDM increased enrolment & improved attendance; and
- h) 86% teachers also opined that MDM helped in reducing the school dropout rates.

3.2.11 From analysis of Para 3.2.3 Table-14 regarding details of enrolment of children and institutions for the years 2020-21 and 2021-22, it is encouragingly evident that there is increment in enrolment of children from 11.80 crores to 12.21 crores. This is indicative of a positive recovery from the perilous COVID-19 times and displays the success of Government's efforts to mitigate its impact. The Committee, accordingly, recommends that the Department should make sure even the increased number of enrolled students are covered under the blanket of PM POSHAN Scheme and make necessary augmentations in the budget allocation, student data and policy ambit.

3.2.12 In addition to a plethora of health and nutritional benefits, millets are also good for the environment with low water & input requirements hence being suitable for being grown even in harsh climates. The Committee recommends that the Department should conduct a fresh survey/evaluation in coordination with an independent agency especially in view of inclusion of millets (SHRI ANNA) under the scheme, so that, PM POSHAN Scheme could be consistently implemented in a better way and report of the survey becomes contextual, relevant and helpful in encouraging more students from disadvantaged backgrounds both, socially and economically to avail the benefit under the PM-POSHAN Scheme.

3.2.13 United Nations Organization (UNO) has declared the year 2023 as International Year of Millets which emphasizes on the nutritious values of millets. India has been traditionally the largest millet producer in the world. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the Department should include more millets and coarse grains in diets of school going children of the country under PM POSHAN Scheme. The Committee also recommends the Department to learn from Best-Practices adopted by the States of

Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat regarding the inclusion of millets (SHRI ANNA) in the PM POSHAN Scheme.

3.3 NEW INDIA LITERACY PROGRAMME (NILP)

3.3.1 The Committee is informed that a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Education for All (erstwhile known as Adult Education), "New India Literacy Programme (NILP)", has been approved by the Government of India with a financial outlay of Rs.1037.90 crore for implementation during FYs 2022-23 to 2026-27, in alignment with the recommendations of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The scheme is targeted at all non-literates of age 15 years and above. The scheme is to be implemented through volunteerism. The learners will be encouraged to access the content in local languages in online mode through DIKSHA platform in NCERT. Government/Aided schools registered under UDISE are the units of implementation of the scheme which are run by the State/UT Governments.

3.3.2 NILP has begun to implement from the current financial year (i.e. 2022-23), therefore, the details of number of Adults who have benefitted from this scheme since its inception is not available. However, under Saakshar Bharat Scheme which was implemented during 2009 to 2018 in 404 districts in 26 States and 1 UT with principal target to impart functional literacy to 7.00 crore adult non-literates (including 6.00 crore women), a total of 10.08 crore adults (Male: 2.98 crore and Female: 7.10 crore) learners appeared in 16 Basic Literacy Assessment Tests from August 2010 to March 2018, out of which 7.64 crore Adult Learners out of which (Male: 2.26 crore and Female: 5.38 crore) came out successful and were certified as literates.

3.3.3. It was also informed that subsequently, another Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Adult Education, Padhna Likhna Abhiyan (PLA) was implemented in rural and urban areas of 33 States and UTs during the financial year 2020-21 with target of making 48.16 lakh Adult non-literates as literates. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the PLA scheme was extended by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance upto 31st March, 2022. Recently, NIOS has declared the results of learners who appeared in 12 States/UTs indicating that a total of 19.53 lakh learners, appeared in the assessment tests till March, 2022 out of which 16.91 lakh learners have been certified as literates.

3.3.4 Budgetary Allocations under NILP *vis-à-vis* Actual Utilization as on 31st January, 2023 is as under:

Table -19

(Rs. In crore)

New India Literacy Programme (NILP)	Actuals 2021-22	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	Actuals as on 31.01.2023	BE 2023-24
	2.10	127.00	100.00	38.37	157.00

3.3.5 Department was provided an outlay Rs. 127 crores in BE 2022-23 under the scheme. However, at RE 2022-23 stage, it was reduced to Rs. 100 crores. Out of this, the Department has been able to utilize only Rs. 38.37 crores as on 31st January, 2023. Under BE 2023-24, it

has been increased to Rs. 157 crores which is 57% more as compared to allocation at RE 2022-23 stage. However, it is nearly four times the actual utilization as on 31st January, 2023 under the scheme.

3.3.6 In reply to a question asked by the Committee, the Department has informed the details of Head-wise break up for utilization of allocation of Rs.157 crores under BE 2023-24 under the different heads of NILP is given as under:-

Table -20

S. No.	Particulars.	Head	Rs. in crores
			BE 2023-24
1.	Advertisement	2202.04.200.22.01.26	0.00
2.	Professional Services	2202.04.200.22.01.28	14.00
3.	UT other than Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu & Kashmir	2202.04.200.22.02.31	1.53
4.		2202.04.789.11.00.31	0.44
5.		2202.04.796.11.00.31	0.23
6.	NER States	2552.00.161.12.00.31	13.49
7.		2552.00.789.25.00.31	3.89
8.		2552.00.796.49.00.31	2.08
9.	States	3601.06.101.88.00.31	78.943
10.		3601.06.789.73.00.31	22.77
11.		3601.06.796.76.00.31	12.18
12.	Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu & Kashmir	3602.06.101.72.00.31	5.171
13.		3602.06.789.67.00.31	1.48
14.		3602.06.796.61.00.31	0.79
			157.00

3.3.7 The Committee appreciates that the Department's allocation has been increased to Rs. 157 crores which is 57% more as compared to allocation under RE 2022-23 stage.

3.4 STRENGTHENING TEACHING-LEARNING AND RESULTS FOR STATES (STARS):

3.4.1 The Department has informed that the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) scheme was approved by the Cabinet in October 2020, to be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. After signing of the loan agreement, the STARS scheme became effective on 23rd February 2021 for a period of five years. *i.e.* up to FY: 2024-25. The STARS scheme is being implemented in six identified States *viz.* Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala. The STARS scheme is carved out of Samagra Shiksha, with a focus on those elements of the scheme which will most directly support school education enhancement.

3.4.2 It has also been informed that the World Bank support is primarily in the form of a results based financing instrument called Program for Results (PforR). The PforR lending instrument used by the World Bank releases funds on the basis of achievement of outcomes. States are provided with the flexibility to use development strategies and reforms that they find

useful. The PforR component will facilitate major reforms at the state level through a set of measurable Disbursement Linked Indicators. (DLIs). There are six DLIs which are as follows:

- a) DLI 1: Increase in students achieving minimum proficiency in grade 3 language in project States.
- b) DLI 2: Improvement in Secondary School Completion Rate
- c) DLI 3: Improvement in governance index scores in project States
- d) DLI 4: Strengthened assessment systems
- e) DLI 5: Partnerships developed to facilitate cross-learning between States
- f) DLI 6: State level improved service delivery

3.4.3 Budgetary Allocations under STARS *vis-à-vis* Actual Utilization as on 31st January, 2023 is as under:-

Table -21

(Rs. in crore)

Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS)	Actuals 2021-22	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	Actuals as on 31.01.2023	BE 2023-24
		313.43	550.00	400.00	154.02

3.4.4 Department was provided an outlay of Rs. 550 crores in BE 2022-23 under the scheme. However, at RE 2022-23 stage, it was reduced to Rs. 400 crores. Out of this, the Department has been able to utilize only Rs. 154.02 crores as on 31st January, 2023. Under BE 2023-24, it has been doubled to Rs. 800 crores as compared to allocation under RE 2022-23 stage. Moreover, it is more than five times the actual utilization during 2022-23 as on 31st January, 2023 under the scheme.

3.4.5 In response to a question asked during the oral evidence before the Committee, it was informed that the total cost of the proposed project is approximately Rs. 5718 crore, with US\$ 500 million (approximately Rs. 3700 crore) to be funded by the World Bank and rest coming as State share from the six participating States. Therefore, total disbursement coming from the World Bank to Ministry of Education (MoE) is Rs. 3700 Crore for a period of 5 years (approx. Rs. 740 Crore per year). However, total Outlay expenditure of STARS Scheme for 2020-21 and 2021-22 combined is Rs. 404.6 Crore only. Also, an amount of Rs. 936.13 crore has been approved by the Project Approval Board (PAB) of STARS as Central share of funds to be released to the States under STARS Scheme for the FY 2022-23.

3.4.6 It was further informed that the pace of expenditure was low during 2020-21 and 2021-22 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and modified procedure for release of funds to the States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme as per OM of MoF dated 23rd March, 2021 and 23rd March, 2022. Now, as per the estimates of DoSE&L, MoE total expenditure expected during 2023-24 may exceed Rs. 800 crores. Also, the States have picked up expenditure and are working towards increasing the pace of implementation of the project. The Department further informed

that out of the above, an amount of approx. Rs. 150.00 crores has been released till date to the States to carry out the activities during 2022-23 aligned with the program results. The BE for STARS for 2022-23 was Rs. 550 crores. Project Management Unit (PMU) has been hired by MoE to support the implementation of STARS at National Level. Various workshops would be organized with PMU and other stakeholders in Education Sector viz. NCERT, NIEPA to facilitate the States to come up with the interventions that are aligned with NEP-2020.

3.4.7 The Committee takes note of the budgetary allocations and utilization pattern during 2022-23 and observes that as on 31st January, 2023, the Department has been able to spend Rs. 154.02 crores of the funds allocated at RE 2022-23 stage under the scheme. The Committee recommends that State/UT-wise progress made under the projects under STARS scheme be continuously evaluated by setting up a coordinating mechanism with all stakeholders to ensure better outcome.

3.4.8 The Committee also takes note of the submission of the Department that the pace of expenditure was low during 2020-21 and 2021-22 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and modified procedure for release of funds to the States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme as per OM of MoF dated 23rd March, 2021 and 23rd March, 2022. Now, as per the estimates of DoSE&L, MoE total expenditure expected during 2023-24 should exceed Rs. 800 crores.

3.5 PM SHRI

3.5.1 The Department has informed that the Cabinet has approved a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme called PM SHRI on 7th September, 2022 to upgrade 14,500 schools at a cost of Rs. 27,360 crores over a five-year period. They will 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.

3.5.2 Budgetary Allocations under PM SHRI *vis-à-vis* Actual Utilization as on 31st January, 2023 is as under:-

Table -22

(Rs. In crore)

PM SHRI	Actuals 2021-22	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	Actuals as on 31.01.2023	BE 2023-24
	0.00	1800.00	398.00	0.00	4000.00

3.5.3 The Committee notes that PM SHRI scheme was approved by the Cabinet on 7th September, 2022. The Committee appreciates that under the BE 2023-24 there has been increase of more than 10 times the amount as compared to allocation under RE 2022-23 stage.

3.5.4 It was also informed by the Department that under the scheme there is provision of setting up of more than 4,500 PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India) by strengthening the existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central Government/State/UT Government/local bodies. The duration of scheme is proposed to be from 2022-23 to 2026-27, after which it shall be the responsibility of the States/UTs to continue to maintain the benchmarks achieved by these schools. More than 20 lakh students are expected to be the direct beneficiaries of the scheme. The total cost of the project will be Rs. 27,360 crore spread over a period of 5 years which includes central share of Rs. 18,128 crore. Further, MoE also organized a workshop/Conference on 14th October, 2022 with all States/UTs to give brief introduction of PM SHRI scheme, their selection criteria and other aspects of scheme. PM SHRI School Portal was launched on 3rd November, 2022 for the selection process. The schedule for the selection of schools in first quarter is as below:

Table -23

Schedule		
S.No.	Activity	Timeline
1.	Time for Schools to apply	Till 31 st Dec , 2022
2.	District (For Verification)	Till 15 th Jan , 2023
3.	State/UT (For Verification & Approval)	Till 31 st Jan , 2023
4.	MoE (For Final Selection)	15 th Feb, 2023

3.5.5 The Department also informed that States/UTs were requested to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DoSE&L, Ministry of Education, Government of India, laying down the commitments to implement NEP 2020 and for supporting these schools for achieving specified quality assurance as PM SHRI schools. Till date, 30 States/UTs including KVS/NVS have signed the MoU and have started the selection process. However, 8 States/UTs (Bihar, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal) have still not signed the MoU with DoSE&L. Till 30th January, 2023, out of 1,79,908 benchmarked schools from 30 States/UTs including KVS and NVS, 1,65,381 Schools have applied for PM SHRI Schools, in which 1,00,384 schools have been verified by the district and 5,932 Schools have been verified at the States/UTs level.

3.5.6 The Committee was also informed that Ministry of Education will select the PM SHRI (Phase-I) schools based on State/UT/KVS/NVS recommendations. Following the selection of the schools, the concerned State/UT/KVS/NVS will prepare annual plans that will be taken into consideration in accordance with the scheme's guidelines during the meeting of the Project Approval Board with the State/UT/KVS/NVS.

3.5.7 The Committee observes that 14,500 schools are to be upgraded at a cost of Rs. 27,360 crores (which includes Central share of Rs. 18,128 crore) over a period of five-year for which 30 States/UTs including KVS/NVS have signed the MoU and have started the selection process of such schools under PM SHRI. The Committee also observes that 8 States/UTs namely Bihar, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have still not signed the MoU with DoSE&L. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department should vigorously take up the matter to bring these States/UTs on board to sign MoUs under PM SHRI Scheme. The Committee strongly believes the the PM SHRI schools will be the torch-bearers of NEP 2020 and New India. PM SHRI Schools concept will have the ability to cater the aspirations of a young India.

CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES

The details of Central Sector Schemes along with the actual utilization during 2021-22, allocations under BE and RE 2022-23, actual utilization during 2022-23 as on 31.01.2023 and allocations under BE 2023-24, scheme-wise are as under:

Table -24

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Central Sector Schemes	Actuals 2021-22	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	Actuals (upto 31.01.2023)	BE 2023-24
National Means Cum Merit Scholars.hip Scheme	251.98	350.00	300.00	140.12	364.00
National Award to Teachers.	0.80	5.00	3.80	3.73	0.00
Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme (DHRUV)	0.00	3.26	0.01	0.00	0.01
Total Central Sector Schemes	252.78	358.26	303.81	143.85	364.01

3.6 NATIONAL MEANS CUM MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

3.6.1 The Department in response to a question has informed that under National Means cum Merit Scholarship Scheme an amount of Rs. 12,000/- per annum (Rs. 1000/- per month) per student is awarded in one lump-sum to the selected students of class IX every year and their continuation/renewal in classes X to XII for study in State Government, Government-aided and Local body schools. The scholarship amount was increased from Rs.6, 000/- to Rs.12,000/- per annum with effect from 1st April, 2017 and there is no proposal to increase the scholarship amount. It was also informed that during 2021-22 and 2022-23, no fund was reserved under Madhyamik and Uchcharat Shiksha Kosh (MUSK), as this was yet to be made operational.

3.6.2 The details of actual utilization during 2021-22, BE and RE for F.Y. 2022-23, actual utilization as on 31st January, 2023 and allocation under BE 2023-24 is as under:-

Table -25*(Rs. In crore)*

National Means Cum Merit Scholarship Scheme	Actuals 2021-22	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	Actuals as on 31.01.2023	BE 2023-24
	251.98	350.00	300.00	140.12	364.00

3.6.3 As informed by the Department, the total amount allocated, released and utilized during last four Financial Year till 31st December, 2022, year-wise and State-wise and total number of beneficiaries is given as under:

Table -26

S. No.	Financial Year	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in crore)	Number of beneficiaries	% amount reserved under MUSK
1.	2019-20	331.26	2,80,221	92.79
2.	2020-21	321.11	2,67,503	57.14
3.	2021-22	251.98	2,06,794	Nil
4.	2022-23 as on 31.12.2022	139.54	1,14,765	Nil

3.6.4 The Committee appreciates the enhanced allocation of 20% in BE 2023-24 as compared to RE 2022-23. The Committee recommends for better monitoring and utilization of allocated funds during 2023-24 and also for analyzing the components under the said Scheme where there has been underutilization so as to take suitable measures to address the underutilization of allocated funds.

3.7 NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY (NEP), 2020

3.7.1 The Department has informed that the National Education Policy 2020, has been founded on the five guiding pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability to prepare youth of the country to meet the diverse national and global challenges of the present and the future. NEP 2020 looks at school and higher education as a single organic continuum, and is rooted in the Indian ethos and constitutional values with simultaneous emphasis on the imbibing of 21st century skills. The National Education Policy envisages to implement its objectives by laying emphasis on 10 important areas/themes which are given as under:

a. **Planning and preparing roadmaps:** NEP 2020 envisages long term planning for each aspect to ensure proper implementation. It envisions School Development Plan, Pedagogical Plan, Implementation plan for attaining universal foundational literacy and numeracy, Lesson Plans for keeping with real-life situations for the student to be able to attain competency in a given area. It also gives priority to the children with special needs and gifted children and proposes Plan for tracking each child, new pattern of exams, and new pedagogies.

b. Access & Retention: As mentioned in NEP 2020, 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio in school education by 2030 will be achieved through various measures to be adopted as per context in each State/UT. The goal is that no school is to remain deficient on infrastructure support from pre-primary school to Grade 12.

c. Frameworks & Guidelines: A new and comprehensive National Curricular Framework (NCF) for School Education, Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Teacher Education and Adult Education is being formulated based on the vision of NEP 2020. National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for Foundational Stage has been released in October, 2022.

d. Improvement in quality of Teachers: A technology-based comprehensive teacher-requirement planning forecasting exercise will be conducted by each State to assess expected subject-wise teacher vacancies over the next two decades and Teacher Eligibility Tests (TETs) will be strengthened to inculcate better test material, both in terms of content and pedagogy.

e. Development of Resources: NEP 2020 underscore the importance of high quality resources and their accessibility to all. High quality and diversified student and teacher resources/learning materials, including e-learning resources (DIKSHA), equipped labs, availability of well-trained sports teachers, art, craft and vocational resources, counsellors, special educators and libraries both online and offline would be made available for learners.

f. Capacity Building: Teachers will be given continuous opportunities for self-improvement and to learn the latest innovations and advances in their professions. Each teacher will be expected to participate in at least 50 hours of CPD opportunities every year for their own professional development, driven by their own interests.

g. Innovative Pedagogies: Pedagogy will be evolved to make education more experiential, holistic, integrated, inquiry-driven, discovery-oriented, learner-centred, discussion-based, flexible, and, of course, enjoyable. Pedagogy reform across all stages will be to move the education system towards real understanding and towards learning how to learn and away from the culture of rote learning as is largely present today.

h. Standards: In order to ensure equivalence of academic standards among learners across all school, PARAKH an autonomous body of Ministry of Education will prepare national guidelines on assessment standards to be achieved.

i. Assessment & Evaluation: The aim of assessment in the culture of our schooling system will shift from one that is summative and primarily tests rote memorization skills to one that is more regular and formative, is more competency-based, promotes learning and development for our students, and tests higher-order skills, such as analysis, critical thinking, and conceptual clarity.

j. Cross cutting theme and Non-Negotiables: NEP signifies the importance of integration of various themes such as new curriculum and pedagogical structure, no hard separation between arts and science, flexibility, convergence, use of technology at all stages and focus on socio-economic disadvantaged group.

3.7.2 It has also been informed by the Department that the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 requires multiple initiatives and actions which will have to be taken by

multiple bodies in a synchronized and systematic manner. Accordingly, Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education and D/o School Education & Literacy), State Governments, education-related Ministries, the regulatory and implementing bodies of school and higher education such as University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education, National Council for Teacher Education, National Council of Educational Research and Training, Central Board of Secondary Education, Universities/Colleges/Schools etc., have started taking initiatives for implementation of NEP 2020. The policy provides different timelines as well as principles and methodology for its implementation. NEP also provides for careful planning, joint monitoring and collaborative implementation by Central and States for execution of this policy. Department of School Education and Literacy has developed an indicative and suggestive implementation plan for School Education, called 'Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education (SARTHAQ). This implementation plan was released on 8th April, 2021. It links each recommendation of NEP with 297 Tasks along with responsible agencies, timelines and 304 outputs of these tasks to be implemented in a phased manner.

3.7.3 While replying to a query regarding measures/provisions proposed to be taken to train and develop requisite number of Teachers to adapt to the NEP, 2020, the Department has informed the Committee that as per National Education Policy, 2020, each teacher is expected to participate in Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for minimum 50 hours. in a year. The Central Government has launched an integrated teacher training programme for the holistic development of school heads and teachers named NISHTHA. The program aims at capacity building of teachers, head of schools and key resource persons (KRPs) from all parts of the country including remote areas, rural areas and backward villages. In view of the impediments arising due to Covid 19 pandemic, the training program was made 100 percent online as per the requirements of learning and teaching. Since, education falls in the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India, States & UTs are also required to plan and implement in-service training of all teachers as per vision of NEP 2020. Moreover, teacher training is a continuous process.

3.7.4 It was also informed by the Department that in addition to Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Panchayati Raj are involved in implementation of NEP 2020.

3.7.5 The Committee observes that various stakeholders including various Ministries/Departments of Union Government, autonomous organizations and State Governments are involved, as education finds mention in concurrent list of Indian Constitution. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Education, particularly, Department of School Education & Literacy should take up the matter of implementation of NEP 2020 with various stakeholders, particularly all State Governments. The

Committee, further, recommends that the impediments be identified and periodically reviewed. Further, the Department should coordinate with the stakeholders so that effective and expeditious implementation of NEP 2020 is made possible.

3.7.6 The Committee appreciates the Department's efforts such as PM SHRI, NIPUN Bharat Abhiyan, UDISE+, Smart Class Programme which will cater to the goals envisaged by NEP 2020.

4. ORGANIZATIONS/ BODIES UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY (MINISTRY OF EDUCATION)

4.1 NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING (NCERT)

4.1.1 The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is an autonomous organisation of the Government of India. It was established on 1st September, 1961 as a literary, scientific and charitable Society under the Societies' Registration Act, 1860. It provides academic and technical support for qualitative improvement in school education and undertakes programmes related to educational research, development, training, international cooperation, publication and dissemination of information. NCERT has one national level institution, *namely*, National Institute of Education (NIE) New Delhi and five Regional Institutes of Education (RIEs) located at Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Mysuru, and Urinam (Meghalaya). It has an institute dedicated to vocational studies, *namely*, Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Institute of Vocational Education, (PSSIVE), Bhopal and Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET), New Delhi dedicated to education and technology.

4.1.2 The details of actual utilization during 2021-22, BE and RE for F.Y. 2022-23, actual utilization as on 31st January, 2023 during 2022-23 and allocation under BE 2023-24 is as under:-

Table -29

(Rs. In crore)

NCERT	Actuals 2021-22	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	Actuals as on 31.01.2023	BE 2023-24
		319.74	510.00	405.00	281.71

4.1.3 NCERT was provided an outlay of Rs. 510 crores in BE 2022-23. However, at RE 2022-23 stage, it was reduced to Rs. 405 crores. Out of this, the Department has been able to utilize only Rs. 281.71 crores as on 31st January, 2023. Under BE 2023-24, an enhanced allocation of Rs. 518.50 crores has been provided, which is nearly 25% more as compared to allocations under RE 2022-23 stage. However, it is nearly 80% more than the actual utilization as on 31st January, 2023 under NCERT.

4.1.4 The Committee notes that the allocation under BE 2023-24 for NCERT is Rs. 518.50 crores which is more than allocations in the RE 2022-23. Out of the total allocation of Rs. 405 crores in RE 2022-23, the amount utilized as on 31st January, 2023 is only Rs. 281.71 crores. The Committee observes that Government has left no dearth to extend funds to NCERT. The Committee, therefore, recommends that NCERT must review the utilization pattern and make gainful utilization of the enhanced funds allocated for BE 2023-24.

4.2 CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (CBSE)

4.2.1 The Department in response to a question of the Committee has informed the Committee that as on 31st December, 2022, 28,402 schools are affiliated with CBSE in India and abroad.

4.2.2 It was also informed that Clause 9 (ii) of Powers and functions of CBSE as stipulated in the Manual of Rules and Regulations of CBSE enables CBSE to prescribe courses of instruction for examinations conducted by the Board, provided that the Board may prescribe different courses of instruction for different classes of institutions. The Department has also informed that:-

- a) All the syllabi prescribed by CBSE are based on the recommendation of National Curriculum Framework approved by Ministry of Education, Government of India.
- b) The syllabi of CBSE are prepared by Committee of Courses which are required to formulate/review the curriculum in the light of National Education Policy and National Curriculum Framework. Syllabus prepared by Committee of Courses is approved by the Curriculum Committee of the Board which is eventually ratified by the governing Body of the Board.
- c) Committee of Courses comprises of not less than three and not more than five members. Two members may be co-opted with the approval of Chairperson.

4.2.3 The Committee in its 347th Report on "Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Three Hundred Thirty First Report on Reforms in Content and Design of School Text Books" had recommended that "*The Committee notes the position mentioned and is of the view that the Department in coordination with NCERT should ensure that contributions of many unsung freedom fighters from all corners of the country including North Eastern region of the country get incorporated with equal emphasis in the text-books*".

4.2.4 The Committee observes that CBSE reviews the curriculum annually. However, the Committee is constrained to note that name of the unsung heroes of freedom movement from various parts of the country do not find adequate mention in curriculum being taught in classes IX-X to XI-XII. The Committee, therefore, strongly reiterates its recommendation at para 4.2.3 in its 347th Report on "Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Three Hundred Thirty First Report on Reforms in Content and Design of School Text Books" and recommends that

unsung heroes of freedom struggle from every part and community should find adequate mention in curriculum of class IX to XII students from next academic session.

4.3 KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN (KVS)

4.3.1 The Department has informed that the scheme of Kendriya Vidyalaya (erstwhile Central Schools) was approved in November, 1962 by the Government of India on the recommendations of the second Central Pay Commission. Later on, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan was registered as a society under Societies Registration Act (XXI of 1860) on 15th December, 1965. It was also informed that at present, 1,252 Kendriya Vidyalayas are there in the country, including 3 abroad, with 14,28,619 students.

4.3.2 As informed by the Commissioner, mandate of KVS is:

- a) to cater to the educational needs of the children of transferable Central Government employees including Defence and Para-military personnel by providing a common programme of education;
- b) To pursue excellence and set the pace in the field of school education;
- c) To initiate and promote experimentation and innovations in education in collaboration with other bodies like the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) etc.; and
- d) To develop the spirit of national integration and create a sense of “Indianness” among children.

4.3.3 The details of actual utilization during 2021-22, BE and RE for F.Y. 2022-23, actual utilization as on 31st January, 2023 during 2022-23 and allocation under BE 2023-24 is as under:-

Table -30

(Rs. In crore)

KVS	Actuals 2021-22	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	Actuals as on 31.01.2023	BE 2023-24
	6800.00	7650.00	7512.00	6283.94	8363.98

4.3.4 KVS was provided an outlay of Rs. 7650 crores in BE 2022-23. However, at RE 2022-23 stage, it was reduced to Rs. 7512 crores. Out of this, the Department has been able to utilize only Rs. 6283.94 crores as on 31st January, 2023. Under BE 2023-24, an enhanced allocation of Rs. 8363.98 crores has been provided, which is nearly 12% more as compared to allocations under RE 2022-23 stage.

4.3.5 The Committee notes that KVS has utilized around 83% of the funds allocated during 2022-23 as on 31st January, 2023 which is worth appreciation. The Committee also appreciates the Department for being able to get enhanced allocations to KVS during 2023-24 which is Rs. 8363.98 crores.

4.3.6 In reply to a query "status of KVS under construction", it has also been informed that at present, 258 Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country do not have their own permanent buildings and are functioning in temporary accommodation provided by Sponsoring Agency. Further, no fixed time frame can be given for completing the construction of these buildings as construction of School building is a regular process which depends on transfer of suitable piece of land by the Sponsoring Agency as per KVS norms, submission of drawings/estimates by the construction agencies and availability of commensurate fund for the purpose.

4.3.7 The Committee observes that KVS caters to the educational needs of transferrable Central Government employees including Defence and Para-military personnel. The Committee notes that 258 KVS do not have permanent buildings and are functioning in temporary accommodations. Further, the Committee recommends that the Ministry should take-up the matter with the State Government/Agency concerned and pursue and convince them for providing land for the remaining 258 KVS on mission mode as Department has been given enhanced allocation of Rs. 8,363.98 crores for Financial Year 2023-24.

4.4 NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SAMITI (NVS)

4.4.1 Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Education and has been registered as a Society. It establishes, runs and manages Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) all over the country and these schools are affiliated to CBSE.

4.4.2 As informed by the Commissioner, NVS, mandate of KVS is:

- a) to provide good quality modern education to the talented students predominantly from rural areas irrespective of socio-economic status.
- b) to nurture and promote the talent and creativity of the students
- c) to develop integrated personality of the students under residential co-educational setup through value orientation and ultimately developing students to be good human beings and an asset to our Nation.
- d) to make JNV as an excellent pace setting school in the District. There is one JNV in every district (as on 31.05.2014) of the country (except Tamil Nadu, which has not yet accepted the scheme).

4.4.3 The details of actual utilization during 2021-22, BE and RE for F.Y. 2022-23, actual utilization as on 31st January, 2023 during 2022-23 and allocation under BE 2023-24 is as under:

Table -31*(Rs. In crore)*

NVS	Actuals 2021-22	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	Actuals as on 31.01.2023	BE 2023-24
		3740.00	4115.00	4920.30	3426.09

4.4.4 NVS was provided an outlay of Rs. 4115 crores in BE 2022-23 and at RE 2022-23 stage, it was increased to Rs. 4920.30 crores. Out of this, the Department has been able to utilize only Rs. 3426.09 crores as on 31st January, 2023 which is around 70% of the total budgetary allocations. Under BE 2023-24, an enhanced allocation of Rs. 5486.50 crores has been provided, which is nearly 12% more as compared to allocations under RE 2022-23 stage.

4.4.5 The Committee appreciates the 70% utilisation of the allocated funds at RE stage 2022-23 as on 31st January, 2023 and the subsequent enhanced allocations to NVS under BE 2023-24 which is now Rs. 5,486.50 crores.

4.5 STAFF STRENGTH and VACCANCIES in NCERT, CBSE, KVS AND NVS

4.5.1 While replying to query regarding the sanctioned strength of workforce *vis-à-vis* actual work force and vacancy positions in NCERT as on 31st December, 2021 in Group A, B and C wise, following data has been furnished by the Department as under:

Table -32

Group A							Total
	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	PH	
Sanctioned	Posts not sanctioned category-wise						50
In-position	13	1	-	3	-	-	17
Vacant	-	-	-	-	-	-	33

Group B							Total
	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	PH	
Sanctioned	Posts not sanctioned category-wise						80
In-position	26	6	3	1	-	-	36
Vacant	-	-	-	-	-	-	44

Group C							Total
	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	PH	
Sanctioned	Posts not sanctioned category-wise						165
In-position	9	2	1	1	-	1	14
Vacant	-	-	-	-	-	-	151

4.5.2 The vacancy positions of Group A, B & C officers/officials in CBSE as on 31st December, 2022 are given below:-

Table -33

S. No.	Group	Sanctioned	Existing	Vacancy
1.	'A'	327	195	132
2.	'B'	541	446	95
3.	'C'	965	426	539
TOTAL		1833	1067	766

4.5.3 The details of vacancies of teaching and non-teaching staffs in KVS as on 1st November, 2022 along with category-wise breakup and the steps taken to fill up the vacancies, as informed by the Department are as under:-

Table -34

Name of Post	Total No. of Vacancies	Category-wise vacancies			
		SC	ST	OBC	PWD
Teaching Staff	12769	1856	916	2532	294
Non-Teaching Staff	1692	231	111	279	35
Total	14461	2087	1027	2811	329

4.5.4 It was also informed that to fill up the vacancies with regard to KVS, through Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) and Direct Recruitment, the process of inviting online application has been completed. The date for conduct of computer based test through LDCE 2022 has been fixed as 22nd January, 2023. Further, the date for conduct of computer based test through direct recruitment has been scheduled in the month of February and March-2023.

4.5.5 The total sanctioned strength, in position and vacancies with cadre-wise break up of work force in NVS as on 31st December, 2022 is given as under:

Table-35

Staff	Sanctioned	In Position	Vacant
Teaching Staff of JNVs	15936	12665	3271
Non-Teaching Staff JNVs	10296	7530	2766
Staff of Headquarter and Regional Office	491	393	98
Total	26723	20588	6135

4.5.6 In response to the query, "what is the status of vacancies in NVS and KVS" in the meeting held on 27th February, 2023 for consideration of DFG (2023-24) of the Department of School Education and Literacy informed the Committee that with regard to NVS, vacancies

keeps on arising on account of retirement, promotion, resignation, upgradation of existing Vidyalayas to higher classes, sanction of new streams, sanction of new Vidyalayas and demise of staff. To protect the academic interests of the students and to ensure that studies of students are not hindered, teachers are engaged on short term contractual basis against the vacant posts, if any, till the period the regular teachers are recruited. With regard to KVS, it was informed that filling up of vacancies is a continuous process and action is taken from time to time as per the provisions of the relevant recruitment rules. As the process of filling up of vacancies involves various methods of recruitment such as promotion, limited departmental examination, direct recruitment etc., and takes time, teachers are also engaged on contractual basis against sanctioned vacant posts for temporary duration by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to ensure that the teaching-learning process is not hampered.

4.5.7 The Committee strongly recommends that the Department of School Education and Literacy along with NCERT, CBSE, KVS and NVS should complete the process of filling up the vacancies of teaching and non-teaching staffs both with permanent posts in a time-bound manner and latest by the end of 2023, so that, NEP 2020 is implemented in letter and spirit.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE AT A GLANCE

OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2023-24) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

The Committee appreciates that there is an increase of 16.5% in BE 2023-24 as compared to RE 2022-23. (Para: 2.9)

SCHEMES/PROGRAMMES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES

SAMAGRA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

The Committee appreciates the enhanced allocations under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan which has witnessed increase of around 16% in BE 2023-24 as compared to RE 2022-23. The Committee suggests that mechanism for faster utilisation should consistently be reviewed. (Para: 3.1.8)

The Committee notes that there has been slow pace of utilization of released funds by implementing agencies *i.e.* the State Governments and tardy pace of submission of Utilization Certificates by them. However, it is commendable that Department has made Single Nodal Account (SNA) functional in almost all States/UTs and hopes that fund utilization would improve from this Financial Year. (Para: 3.1.9)

RTE Act, 2009 which led to insertion of Article 21-A in the Constitution of India has made Right of child and free compulsory education of children in the age group of 6-14 years as a fundamental right. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department should request and pursue with the concerned Ministry/Department to come onboard for setting up infrastructures required to hold online classes in the far flung and remotest areas in the country in order to ensure the benefits enshrined under RTE Act, 2009. At the same time it should be ensured that nutritional support reaches to the beneficiaries involved in attending online classes. (Para: 3.1.12)

The Committee observes that there are 9,86,565 vacancies of teachers against the sanctioned strength of 62,71,380 at the State Level, out of which, 7,47,565 posts at elementary level, 1,46,334 at secondary level and 92,666 at higher secondary level are vacant. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department should encourage the State Governments to expedite the recruitment process to fill up the vacancies of teaching staffs in a time-bound manner to achieve 30:1 pupil-teacher ratio as envisaged under New Education Policy, 2020. It is also observed that in many States, teacher recruitment process is not transparent and is cumbersome. Therefore, the Committee recommends that Autonomous Teacher Recruitment Board should be formed at State level as recommended by some Education Committees. (Para: 3.1.14)

The Committee appreciates the increased budgetary allocations during 2023-24 against allocations of Rs. 5,326.36 crores in 2022-23 under Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) and also appreciates the efforts/initiatives taken for encouraging education among girl child. The Committee also appreciates the initiatives of the Department for taking up with the States for inclusion of proposals of vocational education in KGBVs in the Annual Work Plan and budget of Samagra Shiksha for consideration of Project Approval Boards meeting. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department should accelerate the process of inclusion of the proposals of vocational education under KGBVs to ensure its inclusion at the earliest. The Department should also pursue for the coverage of KGBVs under hub and spoke model of vocational education under Samagra Shiksha 2.0 (Para: 3.1.21)

PRADHAN MANTRI POSHAN SHAKTI NIRMAN (PM POSHAN) SCHEME

The Committee observes that during the financial year 2022-23 upto 16th February, 2023, Rs. 7,337.91 crores have been utilized under PM-POSHAN scheme out of the allocated amount of Rs. 10,233.75 crores for the same in BE 2022-23. The Committee appreciates that under BE 2023-24, it has again been increased to Rs. 11,600 crores which is nearly 13.5% higher as compared to allocation under BE 2022-23 stage. The Committee observes that sufficient fund is available for PM-POSHAN Scheme as Centrally Sponsored Scheme and enhanced allocation for the same has been kept for the Financial Year 2023-24. Due to non receipt of proposals from certain States/UTs, utilisation gets hampered. The Department should extend assistance/guidance and encourage the most needy States by hand holding so that proposals are received timely from these States/UTs so that they are able to reap the benefits of this great initiative/scheme. The Committee appreciates the improvement in the situation of malnutrition, which was seconded by the NFHS-V as compared to NFHS-IV.

(Para: 3.2.7)

From analysis of Para 3.2.3 Table-14 regarding details of enrolment of children and institutions for the years 2020-21 and 2021-22, it is encouragingly evident that there is increment in enrolment of children from 11.80 crores to 12.21 crores. This is indicative of a positive recovery from the perilous COVID-19 times and displays the success of Government's efforts to mitigate its impact. The Committee, accordingly, recommends that the Department should make sure even the increased number of enrolled students are covered under the blanket of PM POSHAN Scheme and make necessary augmentations in the budget allocation, student data and policy ambit.

(Para: 3.2.11)

In addition to a plethora of health and nutritional benefits, millets are also good for the environment with low water & input requirements hence being suitable for being grown even in harsh climates. The Committee recommends that the Department should conduct a fresh survey/evaluation in coordination with an independent agency especially in view of inclusion of millets (SHRI ANNA) under the scheme, so that, PM

POSHAN Scheme could be consistently implemented in a better way and report of the survey becomes contextual, relevant and helpful in encouraging more students from disadvantaged backgrounds both, socially and economically to avail the benefit under the PM-POSHAN Scheme. (Para: 3.2.12)

United Nations Organization (UNO) has declared the year 2023 as International Year of Millets which emphasizes on the nutritious values of millets. India has been traditionally the largest millet producer in the world. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the Department should include more millets and coarse grains in diets of school going children of the country under PM POSHAN Scheme. The Committee also recommends the Department to learn from Best-Practices adopted by the States of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat regarding the inclusion of millets (SHRI ANNA) in the PM POSHAN Scheme. (Para: 3.2.13)

NEW INDIA LITERACY PROGRAMME (NILP)

The Committee appreciates that the Department's allocation has been increased to Rs. 157 crores which is 57% more as compared to allocation under RE 2022-23 stage. (Para: 3.3.7)

STRENGTHENING TEACHING-LEARNING AND RESULTS FOR STATES (STARS):

The Committee takes note of the budgetary allocations and utilization pattern during 2022-23 and observes that as on 31st January, 2023, the Department has been able to spend Rs. 154.02 crores of the funds allocated at RE 2022-23 stage under the scheme. The Committee recommends that State/UT-wise progress made under the projects under STARS scheme be continuously evaluated by setting up a coordinating mechanism with all stakeholders to ensure better outcome. (Para: 3.4.7)

The Committee also takes note of the submission of the Department that the pace of expenditure was low during 2020-21 and 2021-22 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and modified procedure for release of funds to the States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme as per OM of MoF dated 23rd March, 2021 and 23rd March, 2022. Now, as per the estimates of DoSE&L, MoE total expenditure expected during 2023-24 should exceed Rs. 800 crores. (Para: 3.4.8)

PM SHRI

The Committee notes that PM SHRI scheme was approved by the Cabinet on 7th September, 2022. The Committee appreciates that under the BE 2023-24 there has been increase of more than 10 times the amount as compared to allocation under RE 2022-23 stage. (Para: 3.5.3)

The Committee observes that 14,500 schools are to be upgraded at a cost of Rs. 27,360 crores (which includes Central share of Rs. 18,128 crore) over a period of five-year for which 30 States/UTs including KVS/NVS have signed the MoU and have started the selection process of such schools under PM SHRI. The Committee also observes that 8 States/UTs namely Bihar, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have still not signed the MoU with DoSE&L. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department should vigorously take up the matter to bring these States/UTs on board to sign MoUs under PM SHRI Scheme. The Committee strongly believes the the PM SHRI schools will be the torch-bearers of NEP 2020 and New India. PM SHRI Schools concept will have the ability to cater the aspirations of a young India. (Para: 3.5.7)

CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES

NATIONAL MEANS CUM MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

The Committee appreciates the enhanced allocation of 20% in BE 2023-24 as compared to RE 2022-23. The Committee recommends for better monitoring and utilization of allocated funds during 2023-24 and also for analyzing the components under the said Scheme where there has been underutilization so as to take suitable measures to address the underutilization of allocated funds. (Para: 3.6.4)

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY (NEP), 2020

The Committee observes that various stakeholders including various Ministries/Departments of Union Government, autonomous organizations and State Governments are involved, as education finds mention in concurrent list of Indian Constitution. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Education, particularly, Department of School Education & Literacy should take up the matter of implementation of NEP 2020 with various stakeholders, particularly all State Governments. The Committee, further, recommends that the impediments be identified and periodically reviewed. Further, the Department should coordinate with the stakeholders so that effective and expeditious implementation of NEP 2020 is made possible. (Para: 3.7.5)

The Committee appreciates the Department's efforts such as PM SHRI, NIPUN Bharat Abhiyan, UDISE+, Smart Class Programme which will cater to the goals envisaged by NEP 2020. (Para: 3.7.6)

ORGANIZATIONS/ BODIES UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY (MINISTRY OF EDUCATION)

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING (NCERT)

The Committee notes that the allocation under BE 2023-24 for NCERT is Rs. 518.50 crores which is more than allocations in the RE 2022-23. Out of the total allocation of Rs. 405 crores in RE 2022-23, the amount utilized as on 31st January, 2023 is only Rs. 281.71 crores. The Committee observes that Government has left no dearth to extend funds to NCERT. The Committee, therefore, recommends that NCERT must review the utilization pattern and make gainful utilization of the enhanced funds allocated for BE 2023-24.

(Para: 4.1.4)

CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (CBSE)

The Committee observes that CBSE reviews the curriculum annually. However, the Committee is constrained to note that name of the unsung heroes of freedom movement from various parts of the country do not find adequate mention in curriculum being taught in classes IX-X to XI-XII. The Committee, therefore, strongly reiterates its recommendation at para 4.2.3 in its 347th Report on "Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Three Hundred Thirty First Report on Reforms in Content and Design of School Text Books" and recommends that unsung heroes of freedom struggle from every part and community should find adequate mention in curriculum of class IX to XII students from next academic session.

(Para: 4.2.4)

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN (KVS)

The Committee notes that KVS has utilized around 83% of the funds allocated during 2022-23 as on 31st January, 2023 which is worth appreciation. The Committee also appreciates the Department for being able to get enhanced allocations to KVS during 2023-24 which is Rs. 8363.98 crores.

(Para: 4.3.5)

The Committee observes that KVS caters to the educational needs of transferrable Central Government employees including Defence and Para-military personnel. The Committee notes that 258 KVS do not have permanent buildings and are functioning in temporary accommodations. Further, the Committee recommends that the Ministry should take-up the matter with the State Government/Agency concerned and pursue and convince them for providing land for the remaining 258 KVS on mission mode as Department has been given enhanced allocation of Rs. 8,363.98 crores for Financial Year 2023-24.

(Para: 4.3.7)

NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SAMITI (NVS)

The Committee appreciates the 70% utilisation of the allocated funds at RE stage 2022-23 as on 31st January, 2023 and the subsequent enhanced allocations to NVS under BE 2023-24 which is now Rs. 5,486.50 crores.

(Para: 4.4.5)

STAFF STRENGTH and VACCANCIES in NCERT, CBSE, KVS AND NVS

The Committee strongly recommends that the Department of School Education and Literacy along with NCERT, CBSE, KVS and NVS should complete the process of filling up the vacancies of teaching and non-teaching staffs both with permanent posts in a time-bound manner and latest by the end of 2023, so that, NEP 2020 is implemented in letter and spirit.

(Para: 4.5.7)