

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.809
ANSWERED ON-14.12.2022

ACCESS TO SCHOOLS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

809 SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA:

Will the Minister of **EDUCATION** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken and schemes introduced by Government to increase access to schools for disabled children;
- (b) the number of schools which have been approved as disabled friendly and the number of schools which have not been done so; and
- (c) the timeline to achieve disabled friendly status in every school of the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (c) : The Centrally sponsored Samagra Shiksha – is an integrated scheme for School Education of the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, covers children from pre-primary to senior secondary level, including disabled children. Under Samagra Shiksha, apart from overall interventions of the scheme, there is a dedicated component for Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs (CwSN) through which various provisions are made available for the educational needs of disabled children such as, provision of aids, appliances, assistive devices & teaching learning materials (TLMs), transportation, escort and scribe allowances etc. The component support also includes annual block identification and assessment camps and stipend for disabled girls etc for supporting access to schools and completion of their schooling.

Provision for barrier free access within schools has also been made available under the scheme through ramps with handrails and disabled friendly toilets. As per UDISE+ 2021-22 (prov.), 5,89,986 schools have ramps with handrails, 2,14,430 schools have disabled friendly toilets for boys and 1,80,786 disabled friendly toilets for girls respectively and Rs. 1701.06 lakh for ramps with handrails and Rs. 4718.8 lakh for disabled friendly toilets has been approved under Samagra Shiksha respectively for the year 2022-23.

The focus of Samagra Shiksha is on providing inclusive education to Divyang children wherein, children regardless of their abilities/disabilities participate and learn together in the same class, thus creating an enabling educational environment for all students.
