

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2427**  
ANSWERED ON 22.03.2023

**Schools inaccessible for children with disability**

2427 Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that only an extremely small number of educational institutions are disabled-friendly even after the “Accessible India Campaign”;
- (b) if so, the tangible steps taken by Government to make schools accessible; and
- (c) the concrete strategy of Government to tackle the dropout rate among the disabled, as the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) report indicates only 9 per cent of children with disabilities complete secondary education?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Government. State and UT Governments are the appropriate Governments under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, and have the responsibility and mandate to provide school infrastructure including drinking water and toilet facilities in schools in accordance with the norms laid down in the Schedule to the RTE Act, 2009 and as per respective State RTE Rules. After the launch of ‘Accessible India Campaign’ (AIC), States and UTs have been repeatedly advised to ensure that all the schools in their jurisdiction have provision for accessibility through ramps with handrails and disabled friendly toilets.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha launched in 2018-19, has a dedicated Inclusive Education component for the education of Children with Special Needs (CwSN) covering all CwSN with one or more disabilities as mentioned in the schedule of disabilities of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. It aims to look at education of CwSN in a continuum from Pre-Nursery to Class XII studying in Government, Government-aided and local body schools. Samagra Shiksha also has provisions for Disabled friendly Toilets, Ramps and Ramps with Handrails for barrier free access to schools for all children.

The comparative details of number of all management schools having Disabled friendly Toilets, Ramps and Ramps with Handrails for CWSN as per UDISE+data for the years 2018-19 to 2021-22 as given below clearly indicate that the infrastructure facilities for CWSN have improved over the years:

Management	Number of schools			
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
CWSN friendly toilets	2,72,043	3,26,435	3,80,987	4,01,487
CWSN ramps	9,88,097	10,19,964	10,67,752	10,69,795
CWSN ramp with handrails	6,40,944	6,59,264	7,29,114	7,40,395

(c) Under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for undertaking various activities to reduce number of Out of School Children (OoSC) including opening/strengthening of new schools upto senior secondary level, construction of school buildings & additional classrooms, setting up, up-gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, setting up of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas, free uniforms, free text books, transport allowance and undertaking enrolment & retention drives. Further, special training for age appropriate admission of out of school children and residential as well as non-residential training for older children, seasonal hostels / residential camps, special training centres at worksites, transport/ escort facility are also supported to bring out of school children to the formal schooling system. In addition, under the student oriented component for the children with special needs, financial assistance is provided for identification and assessment of children with special needs, aids and appliances, braille kits and books, appropriate teaching learning material and stipend to girl students with disability etc.

Furthermore, NCERT has been creating curriculum based e-contents and transmitting these contents through 12 PM eVIDYA DTH TV channels (Classes:- 1 to 12) and 400 radio stations [11 Gyan Vani Radio Stations, 257 Community Radio Stations (CRS) and 132 All India Radio (AIR) stations across the county. The details of the e-content developed and disseminated are given below-

- i. Talking Books: In all 377 NCERT textbooks from classes I to XII have been digitized in e-pub format and provided on e-Pathshala Mobile app which can be accessed by visually challenged person through a third party Text to Speech App which provides output in audio format.
- ii. Audio Books: About 3474 plus chapters of NCERT textbooks have been recorded in audio format and uploaded on DIKSHA for learners including visually challenged.

- iii. NCERT textbooks have been converted into Indian Sign Language (ISL): Till date 4250 plus ISL videos related to curricular content for classes I to VII, glossary words in psychology, history, geography, urdu, economics have been produced and are being continually disseminated through DIKSHA portal and PM eVidya DTH TV Channels (One Class, One Channel), on regular basis to ensure coherent access of these eContents.
- iv. Guidelines for development of e-content for children with special needs: This can be accessed from [https://ncert.nic.in/pdf/CWSN\\_E-Content\\_guidelines\\_2021\\_new.pdf](https://ncert.nic.in/pdf/CWSN_E-Content_guidelines_2021_new.pdf).
- v. An interactive comic book “Priya- The Accessibility Warrior” brings the message of need of accessibility and helps guiding the students in the right path and flourish the ideologies of being kind, helpful and solicitous towards everyone. The comic book is available on DIKSHA Portal, E-Pathshala, and NCERT website (<https://ncert.nic.in/ptaw.php>) for everyone to access and read the comic book.
- vi. Live interaction series titled “Teaching Learning Interventions for Inclusive Classrooms” is being telecast on PM eVIDYA DTH channels, 5 days in a week. Till date 501 live sessions (30 minutes each) conducted with mandatory ISL interpreter in each session.
- vii. Teacher training module for NISHTHA Elementary, NISHTHA Secondary, NISHTHA Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) and NISHTHA – ECCE for online mode covers the concerns related to inclusive education and nearly 60 lakh teachers have been trained.
- viii. Online Training on Accessible Digital Resources and Assistive Technologies conducted covering 15,964 teachers.
- ix. An 11,000 words ISL dictionary uploaded on DIKSHA.
- x. PRASHAST mobile app for screening of disability at school level was launched on 6 September 2022, during Shikshak Parv. As on 20.03.2023, there are 41279 registered users.

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