

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3560
ANSWERED ON- 02.04.2025

CHALLENGES IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

3560 Shri Sant Balbir Singh:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the main challenges currently faced by education sector, particularly in remote or underserved areas;
- (b) the manner in which the Ministry is addressing issues such as teacher shortages, lack of resources and digital divide;
- (c) whether any new projects or educational initiatives that the Ministry is planning to roll out in the coming months or years; and
- (d) the manner in which these new projects align with the long-term vision for educational growth and development?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d): The Department of School Education and Literacy is implementing an integrated centrally sponsored scheme for School education- Samagra Shiksha with aim 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.

Under Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for providing various facilities to the children for implementing the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 including free uniform to eligible children at elementary level, free textbooks at elementary level and reimbursement under RTE Act.

Also, under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to the States and UTs for Universalization of School Education including opening/strengthening of new schools upto senior secondary level, construction of school buildings & additional classrooms, development/strengthening of school infrastructure in northern border areas under Vibrant Village Programme, setting up, up-gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyas, construction of hostels for PVTGs under PM-JANMAN, setting up of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalyas, construction of hostels under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan for unsaturated ST population, development of

primers/textbooks for tribal language, various qualitative components, teaching learning materials, strengthening of teacher education and strengthening of DIETs/BRCs/CRCs, provision of ICT and digital interventions.

As per the norms of Samagra Shiksha, the annual plans are prepared by the States and UTs as per their requirements/ priority and the same is reflected in their respective Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) Proposals. These plans are then appraised and approved by the Project Approval Board (PAB) in the Department of School Education & Literacy in consultation with the States and UTs as per the programmatic and financial norms of the scheme and physical and financial progress of the State for the interventions approved earlier.

Education being a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, majority of the schools in the country come under the administrative control of States/UTs. Therefore, the recruitment, service conditions and rational deployment of teachers come under the purview of the respective State governments/UT administrations. The Government through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, provides financial assistance to the States and UTs to maintain appropriate Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) for various levels of schooling, as per norms prescribed in the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, as amended from time to time.

PM eVidya offers education through internet, radio, community radio, podcasts, and TV to ensure that no learner is left behind. DIKSHA (One Nation - One Digital Platform) serves as a centralized digital repository, offering a wide range of educational resources aligned with the curriculum. The program also leverages 200 DTH TV Channels, dedicated to grade-specific learning, making educational content widely accessible via satellite TV. SWAYAM MOOCs offers Massive Open Online Courses, enabling deeper academic engagement and expanding learning opportunities for students. To support inclusivity, PM eVidya provides e-content for Divyang students in formats like DAISY for visually impaired learners and Indian Sign Language for hearing-impaired students. Community Radio and Podcasts play a vital role by delivering audio-based educational content, particularly targeting rural and remote areas, ensuring access to learning without the need for the internet.

The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education (MoE) aims to set up 50000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) in the Govt. Secondary Schools in the next five years to cultivate the spirit of curiosity and innovation, and foster a scientific temper among young minds. Broadband connectivity will be provided to all Government secondary schools under the BharatNet project. These projects completely align with the long term vision of educational growth as laid out in National Education Policy 2020.
