

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 786
TO BE ANSWERED 10.02.2025

ATAL TINKERING LABORATORIES IN WEST BENGAL

786 SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Ministry is aware that the State of West Bengal has only 242 Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL) out of the 10,000 established across country and reasons for this limited number;
- (b) number of ATL and number of approved applications received from West Bengal, the primary reasons for rejection of applications;
- (c) whether West Bengal is eligible for the new scheme to establish 2,500 additional ATLs and steps being taken to ensure increased participation from the State; and
- (d) whether Ministry has observed a preference for Arts over STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Math) subjects among students in West Bengal and measures being implemented to boost interest in STEM education?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) Yes Sir, out of 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) established by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) across the country, 242 ATLs have been established in the state of West Bengal. The selection & establishment of ATLs depends on the number of applications received from the state and fulfilment of ATL selection criteria for establishment. Only 242 applications met this criteria from the state of West Bengal.
- (b) Out of the 325 applications shortlisted from West Bengal, 242 were sanctioned ATLs. 73 applications were rejected as they did not meet the necessary selection criteria and due

diligence process set up by AIM such as space requirement to set up ATL, student strength in school, number of teachers in school etc.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) No Sir, AIM does not give preference to Arts over STEM subjects. However, AIM has undertaken several steps to boost interest in STEM education through ATLs such as:

- I. Organizing annual flagship challenges and competitions such as School Innovation Marathon and Tinkerpreneur to provide a platform for students to develop their innovative ideas.
- II. Development of several learning modules on Artificial Intelligence, Drones, IoT etc. and ATL Curriculum available for all students.
