

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1146
ANSWERED ON- 30.07.2025

Educational challenges for children in rural areas

1146 Shri Rajeev Shukla:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that children in remote areas face significant challenges in accessing school despite over 15 years of Right to Education (RTE) Act;
- (b) whether any study has been conducted in this regard to understand the intensity and magnitude of the challenge, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any action has been taken or under consideration to deal with the barriers being faced by children in remote and rural areas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): The Department of School Education and Literacy is implementing an integrated centrally sponsored scheme for School education- Samagra Shiksha. The scheme treats school education holistically, without segmentation from pre-primary to class XII in alignment with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and 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. To reflect the access status, Gross Access Ratio (GAR) is the relevant indicator. The Gross Access Ratio (GAR) of the country has now reached to 97.83% in 2024-25 at primary level and 96.57% in 2024-25 at upper primary level as per Annual Work Plan & Budget of States/UTs. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is now at 93 at primary level as per UDISE+ 2023-24 report.

(c) & (d): To minimise the barrier being faced by children, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for implementation of various provisions of Samagra Shiksha Scheme including free uniform to eligible children at elementary level, free textbooks at elementary level, reimbursement under RTE Act, various qualitative components, development of primers/textbooks for tribal language, teaching learning materials, transport/escort facility up to secondary level, 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 centers, age-appropriate residential and non-residential training, support to Out of School Children (16 to 19 years) for completion of education through NIOS/SIOS, Holistic Progress Card, bilingual teaching material and books.

Further, financial assistance is also provided to the States and UTs for 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 Vidyalayas, setting up of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas, construction of hostels for PVTGs under PM-JANMAN, construction of hostels under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan for unsaturated ST population, strengthening of teacher education, strengthening of DIETs/BRCs/CRCs, provision of ICT and digital interventions, aids and appliances, braille kits and books, appropriate teaching learning material and stipend to girl students with disability, transport allowance, etc. It also has provisions for creation of differently-abled friendly infrastructure such as ramps, ramps with handrails and differently-abled friendly toilets for barrier free access in schools.

Moreover, to bridge the gap between rural and urban areas in educational access, digital initiatives like ICT Labs, Smart Classrooms, PM e-Vidya including DIKSHA and SWAYAM PRABHA DTH-TV Channels are also being supported under the scheme.
