

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1262**  
ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025

**Empowering the deaf community**

**1262 Dr. Sikander Kumar:**

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

- (a) whether Government has signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen Inclusive Education Ecosystem for Children with Disabilities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has planned to conduct any program to provide training in inclusive teaching methods and tools, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures taken by Government to enhance inclusive and quality education for advancing academic strategies for the deaf community?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)**

(a) & (b) The government actively recognizes the needs of Children with Special Needs (CwSN) and has undertaken several initiatives to address their requirements, including the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with various departments and organizations, as outlined below:

- (i) A Tripartite MoU has been executed between National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), Department Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in June, 2025 to provide educational opportunities to divyangjans through NIOS programmes (Open Basic Education, Academic & Vocational) especially to those unable to access formal schooling. Under the MoU, 308 NGOs/Special Schools will be accredited as NIOS study centres to conduct admissions and examinations for Divyangjan learners as per NIOS norms.
- (ii) NIOS signed a MoU with the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) in July, 2023 aimed at sharing expertise and resources for the standardization of Indian Sign Language (ISL) and the development of high-quality educational modules in ISL—particularly in STEM subjects—to enhance learning outcomes for deaf children.

(c) To support inclusive education, NCERT has developed online teacher training modules under NISHTHA for Elementary, Secondary and Foundational Literacy & Numeracy (FLN) levels equipping general teachers to address diverse learning needs of CwSN. In 2023–24, a five-day capacity building programme developed by Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) & NCERT was conducted under NCERT-NISHTHA to train Master Trainers

in inclusive education and practices. Under Samagra Shiksha funds are provided to States/UTs for conduct of capacity building for teachers. CBSE has also promoted inclusive teaching through capacity-building programs, manuals, and a dedicated Handbook of Inclusive Education, offering guidance on curriculum adaptation, teaching strategies and alternative assessments for CwSN.

(d) The Government has taken several initiatives to promote inclusive and quality education for hearing-impaired students, ensuring no learner is left behind.

Under Samagra Shiksha there is a dedicated component for education of Children with Special Needs (CwSN) including Hearing impaired, wherein they are provided hearing aids, assistive devices and ISL videos, therapeutic assistance as per need.

**A dedicated PM e-Vidya 24x7 channel No-31 in Indian Sign Language (ISL) has been launched for Hearing Impaired.** It broadcasts educational content in Indian Sign Language (ISL) for hearing impaired learners.

To promote inclusive education, NCERT through its live series “Teaching Learning Interventions for Inclusive Classrooms,” featuring 30-minute episodes with ISL interpreters. Textbooks for Classes I–VII have been converted into ISL, and subject-wise ISL glossaries in psychology, history, geography, Urdu, and economics have been developed. These resources, along with a 10,500-word ISL dictionary created with ISLRTC, are regularly disseminated via the DIKSHA portal and PM e-Vidya DTH TV channels.

**Providing Government support for CwSN** in form of exemptions and concessions including use of scribes and compensatory time, fee exemptions, subject flexibility, alternate/separate questions and exemption from third language requirements.

**NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling)** has developed Talking Books for learners with blindness and low vision, subject-specific terminological dictionaries in ISL, and video learning materials in ISL for deaf and hard of hearing learners, available on its YouTube channel and Gyanamrit. NIOS is the first board in India to offer Indian Sign Language (ISL) as a first language subject for deaf learners, enabling better comprehension. It also offers On-Demand Examinations for flexible scheduling and Examination at Home for severely disabled learners. Additionally, NIOS provides reasonable examination exemptions with both general and specific provisions for learners with disabilities.

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