

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 361
ANSWERED ON 23.07.2025

Pilot vocational education integration in Odisha

361 **SMT. SULATA DEO:**

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

whether permission will be given to Odisha to pilot vocational education integration from Grade 6 in select districts with high unemployment?

ANSWER

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

The Government of India provides financial assistance for the implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, as per the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) prepared by the respective State/UTs based on their requirement and as per the programmatic and financial norms of the scheme and availability of budgetary resources. Under the Skill Education component of this scheme, National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) aligned skill courses are offered to the students from class 9th to 12th. At the Secondary level i.e., Class IX and X, skill modules are offered to the students as an additional subject. At Sr. Secondary level, i.e., Class XI and XII, skill courses are offered as a compulsory (elective) subject. Exposure of pre-vocational education at Upper Primary level (Class 6 to 8) is included under the Innovation component of Samagra Shiksha.

National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has developed the textbook for exposure to Skill Education at the middle stage (i.e., Class 6 - 8) which may be seen at NCERT website. Till December 2024, 1,13,760 school students in 1,896 schools have been given exposure to Skill Education for the State of Odisha (Source: Data furnished by the State Government of Odisha via Quarterly Progress Report).

National Education Policy 2020 recommends that all students participate in a 10-day bagless period during Grades 6-8 where they intern with local experts such as carpenters, gardeners, potters, artists, etc. In pursuance of this recommendation, the Government in consultation with concerned stakeholders has developed guidelines for 10 bagless days. These guidelines aim at providing children of classes 6-8 an exposure to skill education using experiential learning pedagogy and to make learning at schools joyful and stress free. The guidelines are available at-

<https://www.psscive.ac.in/storage/uploads/others/Guidelines/pdf/english/guidelines-for-implementation-of-10-bagless-days-in-school-english.pdf>

Till December 2024, 12,40,765 school students in 15,687 schools have been benefitted from the 10-day bagless period initiative in Odisha (Source: Data furnished by the State Government of Odisha via Quarterly Progress Report).
