

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 117*
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2025

EDUCATION FOR ANGANWADI WORKERS

*117. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal for creation of a learning module for Anganwadi workers (“didi”) who have not studied up to class 12 but are keen to pursue further education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has launched any guidelines for co-location of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) with schools, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the total collective steps taken towards convergence of ‘Nipun Bharat Mission’ with ‘Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi’ towards the vision of a Vikshit Bharat in 2047?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SMT ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 117* TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2025 REGARDING “EDUCATION FOR ANGANWADI WORKERS”

(a) and (b): Under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, the Ministry of Women and Child Development launched the initiative ‘Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi’ (PBPB) on 10th May 2023 to enhance early learning outcomes by transforming Anganwadi Centres into vibrant learning hubs equipped with quality infrastructure, play materials, and well-trained Anganwadi Workers. The initiative focuses on holistic early childhood education, including for Divyang (children with disabilities). Under PBPB, Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) are trained on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). The training is structured around **Navchetana**, National Framework for Early Childhood Stimulation (0-3 years) and **Aadharshila**, National Curriculum for ECCE (3-6 years). A two-tier training model is being implemented through the Savitribai Phule National Institute of Women and Child Development (SPNIWCD) wherein State-Level Master Trainers (SLMTs) undergo a two-day training (Tier 1), who in turn train Anganwadi Workers through a three-day, interactive, hands-on module (Tier 2) covering curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment tools, emphasizing play-based, activity-based learning. As on 8th December, 2025, a total of 41,645 SLMTs and 9,09,822 AWWs have been trained since its inception.

(c) The Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education jointly launched the Guidelines for **Co-locating Anganwadi Centres within Government Primary Schools** on 3rd September, 2025 to strengthen ECCE and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) services. The Guidelines specify the manner in which co-location of these AWCs can be done, wherever possible. In places where physical co-location is not possible, AWCs should be mapped with the nearest school. This approach aligns with the vision of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which aims to build a strong foundation for young, healthy learners. This initiative ensures continuity between early learning at AWCs and formal schooling starting at Grade 1. It also ensures the optimal use of resources, promotes active community participation, and provides children with a smooth and nurturing transition from pre-school to primary school.

As per Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+) portal 2,99,546 Anganwadi Centres have been co-located with Government schools across the country.

(d) Para 2.1 of The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 states that the ability to read and write, and perform basic operations with numbers, is a necessary foundation and an indispensable prerequisite for all future schooling and lifelong learning. Further, Para 2.2 of the NEP 2020 states that attaining foundational literacy and numeracy for all children will thus become an urgent national mission, with immediate measures to be taken on many fronts and with clear goals that

will be attained in the short term (including that every student will attain foundational literacy and numeracy by Grade 3).

Acknowledging the same, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L), Ministry of Education (MoE) launched on 5th July, 2021 a National Mission called “National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)” for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 2. This Mission has been set up under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha - an integrated scheme for School Education.

Collective steps have been taken towards convergence of ‘NIPUN Bharat Mission’ with ‘Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi’ initiative towards the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047 aligned to provide integrated Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN). In this regard, a Joint Advisory was issued on 02nd April 2025 wherein States/ Union Territories (UTs) were advised to promote joint training of AWWs and pre-primary teachers in collaboration with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs), District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), and SPNIWCD. Also, Aadharshila, the National ECCE Curriculum 2024 for children aged 3–6 years leverages the learning outcomes outlined under the ‘Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi’ initiative and expands on NIPUN Bharat’s Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) goals, to include socio-emotional, cultural/ aesthetic and gross and fine motor skills. Further, launch of Guidelines for Co-location of Anganwadi Centres with Schools is another step towards convergence of ‘NIPUN Bharat Mission’ with ‘Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi’.
