

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

RAJYA SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO. 181
ANSWERED ON 17.12.2025**

Special education program for children with disabilities in Odisha

181 Smt. Sulata Deo:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has a proposal to implement a State-specific special education program for children with disabilities in the State of Odisha, including resource centres and inclusive schools; and
(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

- (a) & (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.181 FOR REPLY ON 17.12.2025 ASKED BY SMT. SULATA DEO, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING 'SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN ODISHA'.

(a) & (b): The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is in complete consonance with the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act 2016 and provides equal learning opportunities for all children including Children with Special Needs (CwSN) as identified under the Act. To ensure universal access to schooling for all from pre-primary to Class XII, the Government is implementing the centrally sponsored scheme Samagra Shiksha which is in alignment with the recommendations of NEP 2020, and ensures that all children have access to quality education within an equitable and inclusive classroom environment.

Under Samagra Shiksha, there is a dedicated Inclusive Education (IE) component for CwSN implemented in all States/UTs including Odisha. Financial assistance is provided for multiple interventions namely identification and assessment camps, provision of aids, appliances, and assistive devices, transportation, scribe and escort allowance, braille and large-print books, stipend for girls with special needs, sports & exposure visits for CwSN, teaching-learning materials (TLMs)/ resource packages, training and capacity building of special educators and general teachers, resource support towards the salary of special educators, home based education for severe disabilities, CwSN-friendly infrastructure.

For the State of Odisha, a total amount of Rs.5308.47 lakh and Rs.4852.38 lakh was approved in PAB for Inclusive Education for CwSN under Samagra Shiksha for the years 2024-25 and 2025-26 respectively. The approved PAB outlay for some of the key components for 2024-25 and 2025-26 are listed in the Table below:

S. No.	IE for CwSN Component-Odisha	2024-25		2025-26	
	Provisions for CwSN	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
		(in Unit)	(in lakh)	(in Unit)	(in lakh)
1	Girls Stipend	27994	559.88	28270	565.4
2	Aids & appliances	4871	243.55	6110	305.5
3	Braille materials/books	5715	142.88	5067	114.86
4	Block Identification & Assessment Camps	632	63.2	1264	126.4
5	Transport allowances	25350	760.5	30729	614.58
6	Escort Allowances	15880	952.8	17313	865.65
7	Home Based Education	505	17.68	1015	29.95

8	Financial Support for Special Educators	948	1706.4	948	1137.6
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Source: PRABANDH Portal

Samagra Shiksha also has provisions for creation of CwSN-friendly infrastructure such as ramps with handrails and CwSN-friendly toilets for barrier free access in schools. Currently, for the state of Odisha, as per UDISE+ 2024-25, 95% schools have ramps, 86% have ramps with handrails and 72% have CwSN-friendly toilets, thereby making schools inclusive. An amount of Rs.4084.28 lakh has been approved for creation of CwSN friendly infrastructure in Odisha for 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Under the IE component, Resource centers (at block level) function as a setting for CwSN to receive individualized support as per their unique learning needs. These centres function as the mainstay wherein differentiated and adapted programs are designed and delivered for remedial, individualized or group instructions, parent-teacher meetings, therapy and counselling sessions etc. so as to provide high quality learning support. In Odisha, 316 Resource centres are functional at block level to provide therapeutic support, assessment, training/orientation for parents and teachers, and counseling services to the CwSN, under Samagra Shiksha with two resource persons for CwSN per block.

Samagra Shiksha mandates early identification, assessment and intervention of CwSN for which financial support is provided to organize block level camps for assessment as well as to identify, certify and distribute assistive devices to CwSN. As part of the commemoration of the 5th Anniversary of NEP 2020 through the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS) 2025, on 29th July 2025, DoSEL launched a nation-wide week-long campaign for Mega Assessment and Distribution Camps for CwSN under the Samagra Shiksha at the block and district level. In Odisha, 5213 children were assessed and 2416 children were provided with assistive devices in the Mega Camps organized.

The State of Odisha had undertaken a survey of CwSN under different disabilities enrolled in their schools to arrive at the requirement of special educators. Based on this survey, as requested by the State, 948 special educators for appointment in schools and at the block level were approved under Samagra Shiksha, on annual contractual basis in the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) for the Financial Year 2024-25 and 2025–26. Further, the State of Odisha has conducted a five-day capacity building programme, to sensitize and train 50,508 teaching and non-teaching staff of inclusive schools, to address the learning needs of CwSN.

With a view to monitor CwSN and facilitate early screening and intervention, the Government through NCERT has developed 'PRASHAST' (Pre-Assessment Holistic Screening Tool); a mobile app to digitally screen students for possible disabilities at school level. The progress of PRASHAST App in Odisha, as on December, 2025 is as under:

S. No.	Particulars	Progress
1	Schools on-boarded	16,429
2	Principals Registered	3,027
3	Teachers Registered	3,497
4	Special Educators Registered	102
5	Students on-boarded	37,871
6	Students screened in Part I	25,800
7	Suspected disability after part I	2,315

Apart from Samagra Shiksha, support is also provided to CwSN under Inclusive Education through the CSS scheme of PM SHRI (Prime Minister's Schools for Rising India) and STARS (Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States) program in the state of Odisha. An amount of Rs.4620.00 lakh has been approved in 2025-26 towards opening of SAKSHAM Resource Centres for CwSN in PM SHRI schools and Laptops were distributed to 343 Visually Impaired students of classes IX to XII under STARS initiative.
