

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO - 45
ANSWERED ON 03/12/2025

High number of single-teacher schools in the country

45 Shri S Niranjana Reddy:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that, as per the UDISE+ 2024-25 report, India has 1,04,125 single-teacher schools functioning across the country;
- (b) if so, the manner in which Government plans to address challenges like severe teacher workload leading to burnout and a lack of individualized student attention; and
- (c) whether the Ministry is considering integrating technology-based teaching solutions, cluster resource centers, or teacher-sharing mechanisms to address teacher shortages in remote regions?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 45 ANSWERED ON 03/12/2025 ASKED BY HONB'LE MP
SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY REGARDING 'HIGH NUMBER OF SINGLE-TEACHER
SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY'**

(a) to (c): Education being a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, an overwhelming majority of the schools in the country comes under the administrative control of States/UTs. The recruitment, remuneration and rational deployment of teachers fall under the purview of the respective State Governments/UT Administrations. The Central Government through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, provides financial assistance to the States and UTs to maintain appropriate Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) for various levels of schooling, as per norms prescribed in the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, as amended from time to time.

As per UDISE+ 2024-25 report, number of single-teacher schools in the country are 1,04,125.

NEP 2020 places teachers at the centre of any fundamental reforms in the education system.

Strengthening of teacher training/education programmes is supported under the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha in alignment with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. The interventions under Samagra Shiksha are aimed at strengthening of physical infrastructure in Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs); support to State Councils of Educational Research and Trainings (SCERTs) so that they can effectively and efficiently carry out quality teacher education, research and develop state-specific curriculum framework, as a follow up to the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF SE); capacity building of District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) functionaries; continuous academic support to schools through BRC/CRC etc.

The Government has decided to develop all functional District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) into Centers of Excellence under the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha in a phased manner starting from FY 2023-24. Based on proposals submitted by States/UTs, the Government has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 917.09 Crore for upgradation of 125 DIETs for the FY 2023-24 and Rs. 1,512.50 Crore for upgradation of 121 DIETs for the FY 2025-26 so far.

Further, in terms of NEP, 2020, the Government has released a Guiding Document on the National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) and Bluebook on the National Mission for Mentoring (NMM). NPST defines the competencies of teachers at different stages/levels. The Bluebook on NMM contains the various modalities for mentoring of schoolteachers to enhance their capacity building.

NCTE has notified ITEP, a 4-year integrated dual major bachelor degree in Education as well as a specialized subject in arts, science, physical education etc. The aim is to develop passionate, motivated, qualified, professionally trained, and well-prepared teachers. Admission for the ITEP is carried out by the National Testing Agency (NTA) through the National Common Entrance Test (NCET).

The Right to Education Act, 2009 clearly limits teachers' non-academic duties and protects them from being deployed for tasks unrelated to education, except in legally permitted situations such as disaster relief, Census data, or elections. States/UTs are sensitized from time to time to ensure the above.

The Department of School Education and Literacy has repeatedly impressed upon the States/UT Governments to achieve the vision of NEP 2020 of the Pupil Teacher ratio of under 30:1 by filling up the vacant posts of the teachers in a time bound and transparent manner.

These initiatives collectively support States/UTs in strengthening teacher capacities, pedagogical practices and academic support structures.

The national curricular frameworks and pedagogical guidelines grant greater flexibility for classroom planning, contextualised content delivery, and inclusion of locally relevant materials. Digital platforms like DIKSHA provide open resources that teachers can adapt.

To bridge the digital divide in education, especially after the pandemic, a comprehensive initiative called e-VIDYA is in place which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The key components of this initiative are DIKSHA – the nation's digital infrastructure, 200 PM e-VIDYA DTH TV Channels to provide supplementary education in various Indian languages for classes 1st to 12th, ePathshala initiative to disseminate Digital Books and eContents, eJaadui Pitara digital app to supplement and complement the physical Jaadui Pitara, a vertical on Virtual Labs created on DIKSHA platform where Virtual Labs for Science and Mathematics for subjects Class 6th to 12th have been made available, Samagra Shiksha also has provision of ICT Labs & Smart Classrooms in Schools of Grade VI and above. There are various AI features available on DIKSHA – Ask DIKSHA (Chat with Books), Video Keyword Search, Read Aloud and AI-bases Transition, useful for Personalize Adaptive Learning (PAL).

The Department of School Education and Literacy has also launched a National Initiative to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme called NISHTHA - National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha. NISHTHA is a capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training". NISHTHA online was launched using DIKSHA platform in October, 2020. NISHTHA training has been extended to secondary stage teachers in 2021-22. Subsequently, NISHTHA also extended to Foundational Literacy and Numeracy and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for training of master trainers.
