

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1967
ANSWERED ON 17/12/2025

Schemes for girls education

1967 **Smt. Rekha Sharma:**

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

- (a) progress under schemes promoting girls' education;
- (b) details of retention improvements; and
- (c) whether new residential schools for girls are to be approved, if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Under Samagra Shiksha, an integrated scheme for *school* education, various interventions have been targeted for providing quality education to girls like opening of schools in the neighbourhood to make access easier for girls, free uniform and text-books to girls up to class VIII, appointment of additional teachers including women teacher, stipend to Children With Special Needs (CwSN) girls from class I to class XII, separate toilets for girls, teachers sensitization programmes to promote girls participation, gender-sensitive teaching-learning materials including text books etc.

One of the focus areas of the Samagra Shiksha is to reduce the dropout rate and the number of Out of School Children (OoSC). The scheme includes the provision of opening and strengthening of new schools up to senior secondary level; construction of school buildings and additional classrooms; construction of toilets; sanitation facilities and drinking water for students, setting up and up gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) upto class 12, setting up of residential schools/hostels named Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas, hostels under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), free uniforms, free text books, transport allowance and undertaking enrolment & retention drives.

Further, special state specific projects for varied interventions under equity are also emphasized for enhancing access, retention and quality for girls by promoting enrolment drives, retention and motivation camps, gender sensitization modules etc. Such projects include life skills, awareness programmes, incinerators, sanitary pad vending machines etc.

Samagra Shiksha aims to look at the education of all children including children with Special Needs (CwSN) in a continuum from pre-primary to class XII. CwSN-Girls receive special focus and efforts are made under Samagra Shiksha to help them gain access to schools, as also to provide motivation and guidance for developing their potential. There is a provision of a stipend for CWSN girls @ INR 200/- per month for 10 months.

In order to ensure safety and security of girls, empower girls to tackle risk of assault and for boosting their self confidence, there is a provision of 'Rani Laxmi Bai Atma Raksha Prashikshan' under Samagra Shiksha. Under this, Self defence training is imparted to girls of class VI to XII studying in Government Schools. For this purpose, financial assistance of Rs. 5000/- per month per school for three months are provided under Samagra Shiksha.

Under Samagra Shiksha, to ensure access and quality education to girls from disadvantaged groups and to reduce gender gaps at all levels of school education, there is a provision of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs). KGBVs are residential schools from class VI to XII for girls belonging to Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and BPL families. The KGBVs are set up in Educationally Backward Blocks. Target Group for KGBVs is the Girls in the age group of 10-18 years aspiring to study in classes VI to XII. As on 05.12.2025, there are total 5639 KGBVs approved, out of which 5269 are functional across the country, with a total enrolment of 7,58,288 girls. In the F.Y. 2025-26, two new KGBVs have been approved.

Under PM- JANMAN, 500 hostels have been sanctioned since 2023-24 and 692 hostels have been approved under DAJGUA. These hostels which are made specially for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and Tribal areas for girls and boys will reduce dropouts and increase GER and retention of girls in Tribal areas.

Samagra Shiksha supports States and UTs for strengthening of existing Government schools and for creation and augmentation of infrastructure facilities including separate toilets for girls. As per UDISE+ 2024-25, 97.1% Govt. Schools have Separate toilets for girls in schools.

All above initiatives taken by the Government of India under Samagra Shiksha have a positive impact on girls' education across the country. The sustained focus on strengthening school infrastructure has contributed significantly to, improved Enrolment of Girls; Higher Retention and Reduction in Dropouts and Enhanced Learning Outcomes and Participation of Girls' Students in Schools.

The details of Retention Rate of girls for the last three years are as under:

Year		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Retention Rate	Foundational (Pre-Primary to Class II)	92.4	98.4	99.7
	Preparatory (Class III to Class V)	91.2	85.7	93.4
	Middle (Class VI to Class VIII)	76.4	78.9	84.2
	Secondary (Class IX to XII)	45.1	47.5	49.6
Source: UDISE+				
