

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1317  
ANSWERED ON- 11/02/2026**

**Nipun Bharat Mission and foundational literacy in tribal-majority districts**

1317 # **Smt. Mamata Mohanta:**

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

- (a) current progress of State of Odisha towards achieving literacy and numerical proficiency up to Class 3 under the NIPUN Bharat Mission;
- (b) the specific measures taken to strengthen teacher capacity, teaching materials and evaluation frameworks in tribal-dominated districts like Mayurbhanj;
- (c) the mechanisms adopted for real-time monitoring of learning outcomes; and
- (d) whether there is any proposal for providing additional educational support to areas lagging behind in achieving the targets?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education has launched a National Mission called “National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)” on 5th July, 2021 for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 2. This Mission aligned with NEP 2020, has been set up under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha- an integrated scheme for School Education. Under Samagra Shiksha, all 36 States/Union Territories are implementing the NIPUN-Bharat Mission. It is the first time that the age group of 3-6 years has been included in the school continuum in the foundational stage in 5+3+3+4 structure consisting of 3 years of Balvatika and Grade 1 & 2.

As informed by the State Govt. of Odisha, the state has shown steady progress in foundational literacy and numeracy under the NIPUN Bharat Mission. In the PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024, 65% of Grade 3 students correctly answered literacy questions and 61% numeracy questions. For first time Odisha has secured the 9th position nationally among states in overall performance. To accelerate progress towards the NIPUN Bharat goals, the state launched the NIPUN Odisha Mission in September 2024. In alignment with NEP 2020 and the objectives of the NIPUN Odisha Mission, one year pre-primary education (Sishu Vatika) has been institutionalized for children aged 5+ years in all Government primary schools having Class 1, beginning from the academic year 2025–26. Sishu Vatika has been opened in 44,367 Government schools across the State. Approximately 3,10,839 children aged 5+ years have been enrolled in Sishu Vatika during 2025–26. Focused interventions in Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) including Monthly Cluster Meeting for teachers, reading promotion campaigns, regular classroom observations, Supplementary Teaching Learning Materials for FLN Grade & Primary students and

structured monitoring with assessments, Provision of Jaadu Pedu Kit for the students of Sishu Vatika to Grade 5 students have been key enablers contributing to this consistency and improvement.

(b) As informed by the State Govt. of Odisha, the state has undertaken several targeted measures to strengthen teacher capacity, improve teaching-learning materials, and enhance evaluation frameworks in tribal-dominated districts including Mayurbhanj. The key initiatives include Development of Multilingual Education (MLE) Textbooks, Promotion of Low-Cost and No-Cost Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs), Capacity Building of Academic Functionaries, Training on Indigenous Toy-Based Pedagogy, Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms (The 'Mayurbhanj Samikhya' Monitoring App has been developed to enable real-time monitoring of academic activities by district and block-level officers), Development of Academic Content for Secondary Classes. The district of Mayurbhanj has implemented Medhavi Mayurbhanj 2.0, a focused academic support initiative for Class X students aimed at improving learning outcomes and strengthening performance in board examinations through targeted mentoring and structured academic interventions. A dedicated district-level career counselling portal has been developed to provide structured guidance, career awareness, and counselling support to students, enabling them to make informed academic and vocational choices. Mayurbhanj DIET has established a Santali branch for pre-service teacher training. As part of the curriculum, trainee teachers develop Santali language-based questions and teaching materials for lesson plan demonstrations, internships, and criticism lessons, thereby strengthening multilingual pedagogy and culturally responsive teaching practices.

(c) As informed by the State of Odisha there are mechanisms for real-time monitoring of learning outcomes. In class, Formative assessments helps teacher monitor learning outcomes on a daily basis. Annual Sample Assessment helps to know the learning level and track the progress. Grades 1,2, and 3 in every govt school have been provided with Sikhyana Sopan to track student-wise, grade-wise competencies achieved every month.

(d) As informed by the State Govt. of Odisha, the State Government has put in place targeted measures to provide additional educational support to areas lagging behind in achieving FLN targets under the NIPUN Odisha Mission. Focused academic support is being extended through structured remediation and revision with a strong Multilingual Education (MLE) approach under the Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) programme. These interventions are further strengthened through regular classroom observations, spot assessments, and continuous academic mentoring to facilitate timely feedback and course correction. A statewide Reading Campaign has been launched for all schools, with a special focused Reading Campaign in PM SHRI Schools. To generate awareness, community participation, and system-wide momentum, the State has also organised initiatives such as NIPUN Mela and NIPUN Saptah, aimed at enhancing the impact and visibility of FLN efforts.

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