

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2111
ANSWERED ON- 11/03/2026

Improvement of school infrastructure in Odisha

2111 **Shri Niranjan Bishi:**

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

- (a) whether the Ministry plans to encourage public-private partnerships for improving school infrastructure in Odisha; and
- (b) if so, the details of framework adopted?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the schools come under the purview of the respective State and UT Government. Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, State Government is supported based on annual plans prepared by the State based on their requirements and priority and this is reflected in their respective Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) proposals which are then appraised and approved by the Project Approval Board (PAB) in the Department of School Education & Literacy in consultation with the State as per the programmatic and financial norms of the scheme, and physical and financial progress of the State for the interventions approved. Under Samagra Shiksha an amount of ₹ 189431.81 lakh has been approved since 2018-19 for improvement of school infrastructure in Odisha which includes construction of new schools, additional classroom, Art Cultural Room, Biology Lab, boundary wall, boys' toilets, Chemistry Lab, Computer Room, ramps for Children with Special Needs (CWSN), CWSN Toilets, drinking water, electrification, girls' toilets, lab equipment, library room, major repair, Physics Lab, science lab, solar panel etc.

Also, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 promotes the involvement of communities and alumni in volunteer efforts to enhance learning in schools. To encourage community volunteer engagement, Vidyanjali - a school volunteer initiative was launched in September 2021. It enables community members, individual volunteers, institutions, organizations, alumni, NRIs, serving & retired officials/teachers and civil societies to directly connect with Government and Government-aided schools and contribute their services and assets, materials, and equipment through a dedicated portal (<https://vidyanjali.education.gov.in/about-vidyanjali>). Vidyanjali enables volunteer contributions in two main categories: (i) sharing skills, knowledge, time and effort through services and activities and (ii) providing assets, equipment, and materials. Academic and co-curricular support includes subject mentoring, career counselling, and activities widely offered through the portal, such as yoga, sports, art and cultural activities, health and wellness workshops, and support for Children with Special Needs (CwSN). Infrastructure support includes teaching-learning materials, ICT and digital facilities, STEM and innovation labs, sports equipment, libraries, laboratories, sanitation

facilities, renewable energy solutions, and minor civil works. Also, under Vidyanjali, efforts are being made to mobilise individual and CSR volunteers through National and State-level workshops, conduct of Vidyanjali Samman programme for consistent volunteers, sensitisation programme for District, Block, and Cluster Resource Coordinators on Vidyanjali by States/UTs. Vidyanjali has strengthened learning support services and improved infrastructure in Government and Government-aided schools.
