

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.510
ANSWERED ON 04.02.2026

Students with special needs in Government schools

510 **Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy:**

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

- (a) the number of Children with Special Needs (CwSN) currently studying in Government schools throughout the country, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of registered special educators currently employed throughout the country and number of vacant posts, State-wise/UT-wise, details thereof;
- (c) the number of schools with no special educators, State-wise/UT-wise, details thereof; and
- (d) steps taken by Government to encourage teachers to take up special education certification in order to reduce this shortage?

ANSWER

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

(a): As per Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+) 2024-25, the total number of Children with Special Needs (CwSN) currently studying in Government schools across the country is 16.15 lakh.

(b) & (c): The Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), the statutory body of Government of India for regulating and monitoring the training of rehabilitation professionals and personnels, has also been given the mandate to develop Human Resource in 16 categories of Professional/ Personnel and as per the Central Rehabilitation Register (CRR) maintained by RCI, there are a total of 2.33 lakh RCI-registered Special Educators.

A statement showing details of State/UT-wise registered special educators in CRR of RCI under different courses, is at **Annexure-I**.

As per UDISE+ 2024–25, 1,12,340 schools have dedicated Special Educators. A statement showing details of State/UT-wise status of Special Educators presently in position (2024-25) under Samagra Shiksha, as per UDISE 2024-25 is at **Annexure-II**.

The Department notified the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) for special teachers in general schools for Children with special Needs (CwSN) vide Notification No. S.O. 4586 (E) dated 21.09.2022 (published on 29.09.2022), wherein the PTR notified is under:

- (i) One special educator for 10 CwSN at primary level.
- (ii) One special educator for 15 CwSN at upper primary and secondary level.

Education being in the concurrent list of the Indian constitution, the recruitment of teachers including special educators and their service conditions comes under the purview of the respective State Governments and Union Territory administrations.

(d): The Central Government through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha and PM SHRI (PM ScHools for Rising India), provides financial assistance to the States and UTs to maintain appropriate Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) for various levels of schooling. This support includes provision for 2 resource persons for CwSN at the Block Resource Centre (BRC).

Additionally, a five days capacity building programme for the first phase Training of Trainers was organized in 2023-24 by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) - National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) on Equitable and Inclusive Education programme. The objective of the training is to sensitize and train general teachers and other functionaries of inclusive schools to address the learning needs of children with special needs. In order to ensure the training of general teachers in cascading mode, the department has approved training of 93345 general teachers in the AWP&B of F.Y 2025-26.

NCERT organizes capacity building programmes under NISHTHA, for teachers on several themes like educational rights of CwSN, diversity in the classroom, equity and inclusion, school accessibility, understanding the learning needs of CwSN, curriculum transaction and modification, teaching learning materials, pedagogy of teaching different school subjects, assessment, universal design of learning etc.

In alignment with the Government's commitment to inclusive education, a dedicated channel for the hearing impaired has been launched under PM e-Vidya initiative on 6th December, 2024. The PM e-Vidya 24*7 DTH Channel No.31 telecasts learning content in Indian Sign Language (ISL) for the benefit of the hearing impaired. Currently, the channel telecasts NCERT school curriculum (Classes 1-5, 6 &7), concept videos, recreational content, live sessions with

Experts, Teachers, Special Educators, Counsellors, Physiotherapists and Clinical Psychologists on inclusive pedagogy, health and well-being of CwSN, yoga and sports events such as the Khelo India Para games, basic courses on ISL for first responders and general population, series on Deaf achievers etc. A 5-day Basic course in Indian Sign Language has also been developed by NCERT which aims to teach fundamental skills, enabling broader awareness of ISL and creating a societal shift toward respect, understanding, and integration of sign language telecasted on the Channel No. 31 from 17th – 21st February, 2025. On 6th December, 2025 the first anniversary of the PMeVidya ISL channel launch was observed wherein a week-long special session on different themes related to Inclusive Education for CwSN was telecasted.

NCERT conducts a live interaction series, titled, “Teaching Learning Interventions for Inclusive Classrooms”. NCERT textbooks have been converted into ISL related to curricular content for classes I to VII, glossary words in psychology, history, geography, urdu, economics have been produced and are being continually disseminated through DIKSHA portal, DTH channels and PM eVidya youtube Channel, on regular basis to ensure coherent access of these e-Contents. A 10,500 words ISL dictionary uploaded on DIKSHA in collaboration with ISLRTC. Braille Stationary, Large Print Textbooks and other Teaching Learning Material are also provided to CwSN under Inclusive Education component of Samagra Shiksha.

Under Kitaab Ek Padhe Anek (KEPA) initiative, NCERT has developed eight prototype textbooks for classes I and II based on the Universal Design of Learning (UDL) framework to ensure accessibility for all learners.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has also promoted inclusive teaching through capacity-building programs, manuals, and a dedicated Handbook of Inclusive Education, offering guidance on curriculum adaptation, teaching strategies and alternative assessments for CwSN.

National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has integrated two dedicated credits on inclusive education for CwSN within the Four-Year Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) for pre-service teacher education. This is aimed at ensuring inclusion, equal participation of CwSN in regular schools, and equipping future teachers to adapt teaching-learning processes to address varied learning needs, including those related to learning disabilities.

Annexure-I.**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) & (C) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 510 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2026 ASKED BY SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY, HON'BLE MP REGARDING "STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS"**

Registration details of special educators in Central Rehabilitation Register (CRR) of RCI under different courses

State/UT	No. of Special Educators registered in CRR
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	75
Andhra Pradesh	10802
Arunachal Pradesh	519
Assam	679
Bihar	6002
Chandigarh	451
Chhattisgarh	1734
Delhi	17849
Goa	866
Gujarat	6726
Haryana	9538
Himachal Pradesh	2214
Jammu and Kashmir	441
Jharkhand	1678
Karnataka	4683
Kerala	11427
Ladakh	19
Lakshadweep	59
Madhya Pradesh	4511
Maharashtra	20986
Manipur	679
Meghalaya	429
Mizoram	340
Nagaland	91
Odisha	10739
Puducherry	163
Punjab	2601
Rajasthan	47986
Sikkim	116
Tamil Nadu	11663
Telangana	4869
Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Dui	14
Tripura	483
Uttarakhand	1422
Uttar Pradesh	36559
West Bengal	13922
Total	2,33,335

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) & (C) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 510 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2026 ASKED BY SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY, HON'BLE MP REGARDING "STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS"

State/UT-wise Special Educator 2024-25 as per UDISE+

India/State/UT	Schools Having Special Educator (2024-25)
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	20
Andhra Pradesh	7193
Arunachal Pradesh	188
Assam	1851
Bihar	10776
Chandigarh	54
Chhattisgarh	2223
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	7
Delhi	3926
Goa	127
Gujarat	2077
Haryana	1359
Himachal Pradesh	840
Jammu & Kashmir	1765
Jharkhand	2086
Karnataka	10986
Kerala	3389
Ladakh	26
Lakshadweep	4
Madhya Pradesh	9561
Maharashtra	4860
Manipur	429
Meghalaya	176
Mizoram	49
Nagaland	111
Odisha	7142
Puducherry	90
Punjab	2202
Rajasthan	7798
Sikkim	60
Tamil Nadu	2079
Telangana	2388
Tripura	307
Uttar Pradesh	22446
Uttarakhand	1593
West Bengal	2152
India	112340