

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 188
ANSWERED ON 05.08.2026

Educationally Backward Districts and Communities

188 Shri Mukul Wasnik:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number and names of districts officially identified as Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs) in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the socio-religious and marginalized communities that exhibit the lowest literacy and school enrolment rates within these identified districts;
- (c) the specific central schemes, budgetary allocations and financial utilization during the last three years aimed at improving educational infrastructure in these areas; and
- (d) the targeted steps taken by Government to upgrade school facilities, digital infrastructure and teacher deployment to mitigate educational backwardness among these specific districts and communities?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 188 ANSWERED ON 05.08.2026 ASKED BY SH. MUKUL
WASNIK, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING
EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS AND COMMUNITIES**

(a) & (b): The Department of School Education and Literacy implements the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha - an Integrated Scheme for School Education, it is an overarching program for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII. It lays down detailed guidelines (programmatic/financial) for various interventions of the Scheme reinforcing the commitment to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment taking care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process as envisaged in the National Education Policy 2020.

This Department had identified Educationally Backward Blocks (EBB) in States/UTs, where the female rural literacy rate was below the national average, under the erstwhile Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) were sanctioned in EBB as residential schools at upper primary level for girls belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL) under the erstwhile Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

With the launch of the Aspirational Districts Programme by NITI Aayog in January 2018 to improve the social outcomes of the backward districts, the programs of the government are now aligned to fill in the infrastructure gaps and improve the learning outcomes in the Aspirational Districts of the country. Under Samagra Shiksha, due preference is also given to cover initiatives like KGBVs undertaken under Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs), apart from Aspirational districts in the implementation of various interventions to promote equitable and quality school education, with a focus on addressing educational gaps and disparities.

The State-wise details of the list of 112 Aspirational Districts, across 26 States and 1 Union Territory is provided in **Annexure – I**. NITI Aayog being the nodal agency for Aspirational District Program maintains the champion of change portal (<https://championsofchange.gov.in/>) for aspirational districts. The district wise details of the educational indicators for aspirational districts can be accessed through the portal.

(c) & (d): Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, this Department provides financial assistance to States and Union Territories for strengthening Government and Government-aided schools by bridging identified infrastructure gaps, including digital infrastructure. The assistance is provided based on the gaps reflected in the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) and the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) proposals submitted by the respective States/UTs.

The year wise financial allocation and utilization status of all the aspirational districts under Samagra Shiksha scheme is as follows;

2024-25		2025-26		2026-27*	
Allocation (in Crore)	Expenditure (in Crore)	Allocation (in Crore)	Expenditure (in Crore)	Allocation (in Crore)	Expenditure (in Crore)
11,512.28	8,318.14	12,221.22	8,343.08	6,149.34	1,190.01

Source: extracted from the PRABANDH portal (*The data is up to July 2026, as the allocation of funds to the districts is currently underway)

The Government has been taking sustained and targeted measures to strengthen school infrastructure, digital facilities and access to quality education, particularly in educationally disadvantaged areas. Under Samagra Shiksha, support is provided to States/UTs for creation and augmentation of school infrastructure, including additional classrooms, drinking water, hand wash and toilet facilities, internet, electricity, ICT labs and Smart Classrooms etc., based on requirements projected in Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) of the respective year. Further, digital learning is being strengthened through DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing), which provides curriculum-aligned digital content, e-books, teacher training resources and other learning materials, thereby facilitating technology-enabled learning and supporting teachers and students, including those in remote and underserved areas.

As Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, the recruitment, deployment, service conditions, and professional development of teachers fall under the purview of respective State/UT governments. However, under Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to States/UTs for maintaining the prescribed Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR), their capacity building and continued professional development subject to the norms of the Scheme.

In addition, Samagra Shiksha provides targeted interventions to promote equitable access, participation and learning outcomes for children belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and other educationally disadvantaged groups, including those residing in Aspirational Districts. The details of these interventions are as follows:

- i. **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs):** Under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs). KGBVs are residential schools for girls belonging to Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) such as Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Other Backward Class and others in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs). The objective of the scheme is to ensure access to quality education for girls from SEDGs and reduce the gender gap at the elementary to senior secondary level by setting up residential schools with boarding facilities. Currently, there are total 5,307 functional KGBVs in states & UTs.
- ii. **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Awasiya Vidyalayas (NSCBVs)-** Samagra Shiksha supports the provision of residential facilities under the intervention entitled NSCBVs, with the primary purpose of reaching out to girls, urban deprived and other disadvantaged children and creating equitable access to school education in remote, sparsely populated and difficult to reach areas, hilly terrains, areas affected by LWE, large uninhabited areas with natural barriers like forests, waterways, rivers, etc. At present, there are 1238 residential schools/hostels sanctioned under Samagra Shiksha.

- iii. **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PMJANMAN)** targets development of 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) residing in 18 states and UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Abhiyan envisages saturation of basic facilities, including Education, in these PVTG habitations/ villages by adopting whole Government approach in convergence with line ministries. Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) is the nodal ministry for implementation of PM JANMAN. Ministry of Education is one of the participating Ministries in the Abhiyan and PM-JANMAN is being implemented in convergence with Samagra Shiksha Scheme of this Department. Hostels under PM-JANMAN: Since, 2023-24, construction of 500 hostels has been approved under PM-JANMAN.
- iv. **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA):** Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) is the nodal ministry for implementation of DAJGUA. The Ministry of Education is one of the participating Ministries in the Abhiyan and DAJGUA is being implemented in convergence with Samagra Shiksha Scheme of this Department. DAJGUA scheme has a run over period from 2024-25 to 2028-29. Since 2024-25, 692 hostels have been approved under DA-JGUA.
- v. **RTE Entitlement-** Provision of Free Uniform: Samagra Shiksha provides support for two sets of uniform to all girls, SC, ST children and Below Poverty Line (BPL) children at an average cost of Rs. 600/- per child per annum, wherever State Governments have incorporated the provision of school uniforms as a child entitlement in their State RTE Rules.
- vi. Besides, the Department is also implementing schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI), PM POSHAN (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman), National Means cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme, ULLAS- the New India Literacy Program to provide adequate school infrastructure (including digital), teaching learning material, teacher support, nutrition, so as to improve the learning outcomes of all students in all States and UTs, with special focus on aspirational districts.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) & (B) OF RAJYA SABHA
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EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS AND COMMUNITIES**

List of 112 Aspirational Districts

S. No.	State	District
1	Andhra Pradesh	Alluri Sitharamaraju
2	Andhra Pradesh	Parvathipuram Manyam
3	Andhra Pradesh	Y.S.R.
4	Arunachal Pradesh	Namsai
5	Assam	Goalpara
6	Assam	Barpeta
7	Assam	Hailakandi
8	Assam	Baksa
9	Assam	Darrang
10	Assam	Udalguri
11	Assam	Dhubri
12	Bihar	Sitamarhi
13	Bihar	Araria
14	Bihar	Purnia
15	Bihar	Katihar
16	Bihar	Muzaffarpur
17	Bihar	Begusarai
18	Bihar	Khagaria
19	Bihar	Banka
20	Bihar	Sheikhpura
21	Bihar	Aurangabad
22	Bihar	Gaya
23	Bihar	Nawada
24	Bihar	Jamui
25	Chhattisgarh	Korba
26	Chhattisgarh	Rajnandgaon
27	Chhattisgarh	Mahasamund
28	Chhattisgarh	Kanker
29	Chhattisgarh	Narayanpur
30	Chhattisgarh	Dantewada
31	Chhattisgarh	Bijapur
32	Chhattisgarh	Bastar
33	Chhattisgarh	Kondagaon

S. No.	State	District
34	Chhattisgarh	Sukma
35	Gujarat	Dahod
36	Gujarat	Narmada
37	Haryana	Mewat
38	Himachal Pradesh	Chamba
39	UT of Jammu & Kashmir	Kupwara
40	UT of Jammu & Kashmir	Baramulla
41	Jharkhand	Garhwa
42	Jharkhand	Chatra
43	Jharkhand	Giridih
44	Jharkhand	Godda
45	Jharkhand	Sahibganj
46	Jharkhand	Pakur
47	Jharkhand	Bokaro
48	Jharkhand	Lohardaga
49	Jharkhand	Purbi Singhbhum
50	Jharkhand	Palamu
51	Jharkhand	Latehar
52	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh
53	Jharkhand	Ramgarh
54	Jharkhand	Dumka
55	Jharkhand	Ranchi
56	Jharkhand	Khunti
57	Jharkhand	Gumla
58	Jharkhand	Simdega
59	Jharkhand	Pashchimi Singhbhum
60	Karnataka	Raichur
61	Karnataka	Yadgir
62	Kerala	Wayanad
63	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur
64	Madhya Pradesh	Damoh
65	Madhya Pradesh	Barwani
66	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh
67	Madhya Pradesh	Vidisha
68	Madhya Pradesh	Guna
69	Madhya Pradesh	Singrauli
70	Madhya Pradesh	Khandwa
71	Maharashtra	Nandurbar
72	Maharashtra	Washim
73	Maharashtra	Gadchiroli
74	Maharashtra	Osmanabad/Dharashiv
75	Manipur	Chandel

S. No.	State	District
76	Meghalaya	Ribhoi
77	Mizoram	Mamit
78	Nagaland	Kiphire
79	Odisha	Dhenkanal
80	Odisha	Gajapati
81	Odisha	Kandhamal
82	Odisha	Balangir
83	Odisha	Kalahandi
84	Odisha	Rayagada
85	Odisha	Koraput
86	Odisha	Malkangiri
87	Odisha	Nabarangpur
88	Odisha	Nuapada
89	Punjab	Moga
90	Punjab	Firozpur
91	Rajasthan	Dholpur
92	Rajasthan	Karauli
93	Rajasthan	Jaisalmer
94	Rajasthan	Sirohi
95	Rajasthan	Baran
96	Sikkim	Soreng
97	Tamil Nadu	Virudhunagar
98	Tamil Nadu	Ramanathapuram
99	Telangana	Asifabad
100	Telangana	Bhoopalapally
101	Telangana	Bhadradi-Kothagudem/ Khammam
102	Tripura	Dhalai
103	Uttar Pradesh	Chitrakoot
104	Uttar Pradesh	Fatehpur
105	Uttar Pradesh	Bahraich
106	Uttar Pradesh	Shrawasti
107	Uttar Pradesh	Balrampur
108	Uttar Pradesh	Siddharthnagar
109	Uttar Pradesh	Chandauli
110	Uttar Pradesh	Sonbhadra
111	Uttarakhand	Udham Singh Nagar
112	Uttarakhand	Haridwar