

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1139
ANSWERED ON – 29/07/2026

Implementation of PM SHRI scheme in West Bengal

1139. **Shri Samik Bhattacharya:**

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

- (a) whether West Bengal has signed MoU for PM-SHRI Schools on 15th May 2026, becoming the last major State to join the scheme;
- (b) number of PM-SHRI Schools identified and approved for West Bengal, the timeline for school selection under the Challenge Mode process, and Central funds earmarked for West Bengal under the scheme for financial years 2026-27; and
- (c) whether Government has released ₹1,745.80 crore in Samagra Shiksha funds withheld from West Bengal during 2024-25 on account of non-participation in PM SHRI, and if so, the date and quantum of such release?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The State of West Bengal has signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 15.05.2026 to implement the PM SHRI scheme. Thereafter, the selection of PM SHRI schools is done through transparent Challenge Mode, wherein schools compete for support to become exemplar schools. The criteria adopted by the Government for selecting the schools under the PM SHRI scheme are provided under “Selection Methodology” of the PM SHRI Framework, available at the link: https://pms shri.education.gov.in/assets/pdf/part1_pms shri.pdf. The selection of PM SHRI schools in West Bengal is currently ongoing.

(c) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha is implemented in partnership with all the States and UTs. Financial assistance is provided to all States and UTs for various

components for implementation of the interventions under Samagra Shiksha. Accordingly, the annual plans under Samagra Shiksha are prepared by the States and UTs based on their requirements and priority and this is reflected in their respective Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B). These plans are then appraised and approved/estimated by Project Approval Board (PAB) in consultation with the States and UTs as per the programmatic and financial norms of the scheme. The funds are released based on the proposal received from State, fulfillment of conditions prescribed by Ministry of Finance and norms of the scheme.

The central share approved by Project Approval Board (PAB) considering the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) submitted by West Bengal for FY 2024-25 was Rs 1745.80 crore. No Central share was released during FY 2024-25.

Since, West Bengal State is implementing Samagra Shiksha Scheme which has been aligned with NEP 2020, it was appropriate for the State to come forward for implementation and showcase all the initiatives of NEP 2020 including under PM SHRI Scheme in order to develop government schools of the State as exemplar schools to facilitate best school education services. Now, West Bengal government has signed MoU to implement PM SHRI scheme.

The Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) submitted by the Government of West Bengal for FY 2026–27, amounting to Rs. 2,773.56 crore (including the previous year's spillover), has been duly approved by the Project Approval Board (PAB). The approved outlay includes a Central share of Rs. 1,664.14 crore. The department has issued the mother sanction of Rs.116.48 crore to the State government for implementation of the Samagra shiksha Scheme.
