

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 358
ANSWERED ON 22/07/2026**

Early Childhood Care and Education

358 Shri Raghav Chadha:

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

- (a) details on the enrolment of children aged 3-6 years under Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programmes in the last five years and the details thereof, State-wise, year-wise;
- (b) progress made on the upgradation of Anganwadis by Government as per NEP roadmap in the last five years, year-wise; and
- (c) what measures are being taken by Government to strengthen foundational learning preparedness?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a): Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is delivered through balvatikas/preschools under the domain of the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSE&L), Ministry of Education (MoE) and Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) under the domain of the Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD). The pre-primary school enrolment state-wise and year-wise, in the last five years, is at Annexure-I. Besides, as informed by the MoWCD, the number of children enrolled at AWCs since 2022-23 till 2025-26 is at Annexure-II.

(b): As envisaged in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, delivery of quality ECCE is achieved by both the DoSE&L, MoE & the MoWCD as a whole of government approach. As informed by the MoWCD, in order to strengthen the ECCE delivered through Anganwadi Centers (AWCs), *Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (PBPB)* initiative was launched in May 2023. The initiative includes upgradation of AWCs as “*Saksham Anganwadis*” with improved ECCE infrastructure; development and rollout of *Aadharshila* – ECCE curriculum framework for 3-6 years (based on the imperative driven by NEP 2020 and aligns with the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) 2022); provision of pre-school education (PSE) kits with an annual allocation of ₹3,000 per AWC; nationwide capacity building of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) through a cascaded training model; and integration of structured digital ECCE content, including videos, activity sheets and voice notes on the Poshan Tracker to support implementation of the curriculum and strengthen school readiness.

A total of 2 lakh AWCs have been approved for upgradation as “*Saksham Anganwadi*” having facilities such as Poshan Vatikas, water filter system/ RO machine, LED screens and other audio-visual aids with Wi-Fi/internet facility wherever feasible, and BaLA (Building as Learning Aid) paintings and ECCE learning materials and other components (such as rainwater harvesting, clean storage facility, etc.). These efforts, complemented by community-driven initiatives like DIY toy workshops, empower AWWs to transform AWCs into vibrant early learning hubs. The State-UT wise number of AWCs sanctioned as “*Saksham Angawadis*” is at Annexure-III.

(c): The DoSE&L, MoE has undertaken the following measures to strengthen foundational learning preparedness as envisaged in NEP 2020:

- A 3-months play based ‘School Preparation Module and Guidelines’ for Grade I named ‘*Vidya Pravesh*’ was launched on 29th July, 2021. The goal of Vidya Pravesh programme is to promote school preparedness in all children coming to Grade-I from diverse backgrounds (Balvatika, Anganwadi Centers (AWCs), at home, private play schools etc.), to ensure a smooth transition of children to Grade-I. From 2022-23 till 2025-26, approx. 5 crore students in around 8.8 lakh schools have benefitted.
- To improve the learning outcomes at foundational stage, the National Curricular Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) was released on 20th October, 2022 providing a structure for the syllabus, training of teachers, Learning Teaching Material (LTM), etc.
- The *Jaadui Pitara* (JP), a set of 53 play-based LTM for ages 3-8 was launched on 20th February 2023. Available in 22 Indian languages and English, JP includes toys, puzzles, story cards, flashcards, and teacher handbooks. Its digital extension, the *e-Jaadui Pitara*, launched on 10th February 2024, offers multilingual stories, activities, songs in 22 Indian languages, and AI-based bots-*Katha Sakhi*, *Teacher Tara*, and *Parent Tara*-to support children, teachers, and parents.
- The Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSE&L) and the Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD) jointly launched the “Guidelines for co-location of Anganwadi Centers with schools” on 03.09.2025. The guidelines have been shared with the States & UTs for effective implementation. As per UDISE+ 2025-26 data, out of 9,02,734 Government and Government-aided schools with Grade 1, a total of 4,90,609 schools (54.34%) have some form of preschool education facility either Balvatika (pre-primary section) or Anganwadi Center or both.
- Play and activity-based textbooks for classes 1 and 2 have been prepared and shared with States/UTs. Additionally, primers in 121 local and tribal languages have been developed to strengthen foundational literacy through mother tongue-based education.

ANNEXURE-I**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 358 TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2026 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA REGARDING "EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION"****Pre-primary school enrolment**

S.No.	STATE/UT	Pre - Primary Enrolment				
		2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
	India	94,95,207	1,01,67,812	1,30,82,797	1,40,47,080	1,49,12,909
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	6,885	8,999	9,292	9,798	10,595
2.	Andhra Pradesh	77,391	4,42,672	5,96,257	5,49,550	4,84,197
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	26,076	20,637	30,173	33,387	34,864
4.	Assam	4,43,388	3,82,396	4,04,868	4,95,858	4,63,978
5.	Bihar	4,26,254	3,95,377	3,28,124	3,55,270	3,54,909
6.	Chandigarh	22,059	24,663	34,275	30,677	29,895
7.	Chhattisgarh	2,27,967	2,98,389	4,48,012	4,86,938	4,92,837
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	5,111	8,218	11,827	13,707	15,993
9.	Delhi	2,53,625	2,95,056	3,06,396	3,12,806	3,08,508
10.	Goa	22,556	30,887	30,358	29,226	28,825
11.	Gujarat	1,64,691	1,08,382	9,07,824	9,40,529	9,43,013
12.	Haryana	2,43,645	1,85,727	2,99,779	4,01,229	4,21,777
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1,04,874	1,22,597	1,60,436	1,93,684	2,07,740
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	3,95,249	3,66,944	4,19,962	4,53,465	4,48,404
15.	Jharkhand	2,82,543	2,80,369	2,79,079	3,14,877	3,10,852
16.	Karnataka	2,65,028	3,76,058	2,81,360	2,66,245	3,13,443
17.	Kerala	5,68,172	5,12,413	6,36,837	6,05,163	5,48,917
18.	Ladakh	10,718	10,604	10,687	10,973	10,746
19.	Lakshadweep	1,582	1,187	1,300	1,309	1,255
20.	Madhya Pradesh	7,41,979	7,54,352	12,18,906	13,44,042	14,55,575
21.	Maharashtra	5,25,861	2,53,696	3,21,132	3,17,336	4,88,483
22.	Manipur	61,723	57,302	66,232	82,131	80,285
23.	Meghalaya	2,14,782	1,86,588	1,74,265	1,82,528	1,97,928
24.	Mizoram	32,567	36,899	35,246	41,642	42,998
25.	Nagaland	76,621	72,240	72,292	74,595	68,702
26.	Odisha	49,376	38,254	73,189	89,409	4,56,798
27.	Puducherry	22,518	28,143	28,544	27,327	27,739
28.	Punjab	7,95,454	7,73,517	9,07,251	9,23,035	9,38,344
29.	Rajasthan	4,92,507	9,15,815	9,96,458	10,23,800	9,90,876
30.	Sikkim	19,634	19,345	19,785	20,770	20,831
31.	Tamil Nadu	6,63,651	10,71,074	11,62,990	10,89,643	11,07,702
32.	Telangana	1,51,592	3,31,818	4,99,367	5,85,410	6,38,036
33.	Tripura	29,683	31,030	37,966	47,352	54,717
34.	Uttar Pradesh	4,07,034	5,70,284	9,97,775	13,88,430	15,56,592
35.	Uttarakhand	94,158	99,901	1,46,549	2,08,135	2,40,237
36.	West Bengal	15,68,253	10,55,979	11,28,004	10,96,804	11,16,318

Source: UDISE+

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State wise details of number of children of 3-6 years age enrolled at AWCs

S. No.	Name of State and UT	Number of 3-6 year children enrolled			
		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5,099	4,338	3,676	2,867
2	Andhra Pradesh	11,52,141	11,66,810	11,50,623	8,24,591
3	Arunachal Pradesh	31,515	43,525	51,409	43,631
4	Assam	17,23,291	16,31,205	15,96,786	12,50,148
5	Bihar	51,72,741	55,60,315	53,82,213	40,35,339
6	Chhattisgarh	11,82,674	11,78,676	11,13,191	10,05,891
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli - Daman & Diu	9,732	9,529	14,152	13,676
8	Delhi	2,09,516	1,75,615	1,47,564	1,46,346
9	Goa	22,239	18,602	14,768	13,448
10	Gujarat	16,53,666	16,27,256	15,03,632	16,61,066
11	Haryana	9,53,252	9,50,524	9,50,437	8,29,121
12	Himachal Pradesh	1,75,376	2,38,069	2,37,330	2,06,857
13	J&K	3,55,862	3,79,224	4,16,174	3,52,769
14	Jharkhand	16,05,562	15,01,244	14,84,738	10,84,317
15	Karnataka	17,78,598	17,04,705	17,91,150	13,70,814
16	Kerala	11,22,182	10,99,743	10,37,801	8,77,311
17	Ladakh	8,860	8,691	8,556	7,631
18	Lakshadweep	1,901	1,176	965	878
19	Madhya Pradesh	35,22,813	36,03,588	35,87,379	31,85,707
20	Maharashtra	34,82,951	33,21,840	32,60,833	28,89,131
21	Manipur	1,56,246	1,60,224	1,64,148	1,51,049
22	Meghalaya	2,32,579	2,28,753	2,20,646	2,04,896
23	Mizoram	59,552	61,189	60,648	43,541
24	Nagaland	41,968	66,298	64,019	52,038
25	Odisha	18,77,529	18,66,441	18,17,368	15,59,869
26	Puducherry	11,065	3,951	5,155	4,376
27	Punjab	4,29,481	6,27,901	7,43,928	6,38,458
28	Rajasthan	17,17,045	17,92,326	16,74,083	13,08,656
29	Sikkim	17,121	16,979	16,905	14,886
30	Tamil Nadu	13,15,390	15,75,758	17,84,310	17,03,884
31	Telangana	8,37,849	8,53,625	8,64,492	7,26,444
32	Tripura	1,70,865	1,68,677	1,66,421	1,36,810
33	UT-Chandigarh	22,826	20,423	17,512	15,394
34	Uttar Pradesh	76,61,098	89,71,034	95,98,780	57,50,198
35	Uttarakhand	2,88,674	2,49,410	2,50,714	2,02,796
36	West Bengal	40,65,137	40,45,672	40,21,834	34,50,417
India		4,30,74,396	4,49,33,336	4,52,24,340	3,57,65,251

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 358 TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2026 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA REGARDING "EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION"

Year-wise number of AWCs sanctioned as Saksham Anganwadis Centres

S. No.	Name of the States and UTs	Year-wise number of AWCs sanctioned as Saksham Anganwadis Centres			
		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
1	Arunachal Pradesh	100	0	52	152
2	Andhra Pradesh	1,105	1,763	7,090	9,958
3	Assam	3,963	815	629	5,407
4	Chandigarh	0	0	69	69
5	Ladakh	0	0	14	14
6	Manipur	30	0	0	30
7	Nagaland	100	49	0	149
8	Sikkim	100	335	0	435
9	Mizoram	100	988	512	1,600
10	Meghalaya	100	8	13	121
11	Karnataka	100	178	17,454	17,732
12	Tripura	200	245	29	474
13	Maharashtra	1,150	589	13,006	14,745
14	Goa	0	24	0	24
15	Jammu & Kashmir	86	50	202	338
16	Andaman & Nicobar	0	86	54	140
17	Lakshadweep	0	0	18	18
18	Uttarakhand	350	213	264	827
19	Bihar	3,566	3,550	4,413	11,529
20	Uttar Pradesh	2,349	17,845	3,503	23,697
21	Tamil Nadu	800	5,590	5,582	11,972
22	Madhya Pradesh	2,220	9,486	12,956	24,662
23	West Bengal	4,750	609	0	5,359
24	Puducherry	0	65	70	135
25	Kerala	250	1,710	2,192	4,152
26	Chhattisgarh	4,750	1,740	5,000	11,490
27	Odisha	6,000	1,084	5,056	12,140
28	Punjab	100	0	253	353
29	Telangana	500	3,529	979	5,008
30	Gujarat	1,250	0	11,897	13,147
31	Jharkhand	6,850	0	9,925	16,775
32	Rajasthan	213	340	2,961	3,514
33	Himachal Pradesh	100	25	905	1,030
34	Haryana	10	0	2,794	2,804
	Total	41,192	50,916	1,07,892	2,00,000