

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1802
ANSWERED ON 31.07.2023

Enrollment of Disabled Students

1802 SHRI KARTI P.CHIDAMBARAM:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of disabled children that are currently enrolled in Educational Institutions;
- (b) the ratio of special educators to disabled students in all Educational Institutions;
- (c) whether the Government has incorporated assistive technology for disabled children in Educational Institutions, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in making Educational Institutions more accessible for disabled students?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

- (a) The percentage of enrollment of Children with Special Needs (CwSN) in schools is 0.85% of total enrollment of students, as per UDISE+ 2021-22.
- (b) Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Government. State and UT Governments are the appropriate Governments under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. The schedule to The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act or Right to Education Act (RTE), 2009 with respect to Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) for special teachers in general schools has been amended through Notification No. S.O. 4586 (E) dated 21.09.2022 (published on 29.09.2022). The PTR for primary level and Upper Primary level are 10:1 and 15:1 respectively.
- (c)& (d) The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education has launched an overarching programme for the school education sector viz; Samagra Shiksha Scheme. There is a dedicated Inclusive Education component for the education of Children with Special Needs (CwSN) as an integral part of Samagra Shiksha. The scheme covers all children with disabilities as mentioned in the schedule of disabilities of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016.

Through this component, CwSN are provided support via specific student oriented interventions such as identification and assessment camps, provision of aids, appliances and assistive devices, transportation, scribe and escort allowance support, Braille books and large print books for children with visual impairment, stipend for girls with special needs and teaching-learning materials etc. in order to appropriately address their unique educational requirements in general schools. Capacity building of general teachers and special educators on meeting learning needs to provide quality education to children with disabilities and improve

their learning outcomes, are also covered. Further, individualized support is also provided through therapeutic interventions at the block level. For the year 2023-24, an amount of ₹1,112.40 lakh has been approved for aids & appliances for CwSN and ₹3,790.89 lakh has been approved for assistive devices, equipments & TLMs respectively.

Samagra Shiksha also provides assistance for Disabled friendly Toilets, Ramps and Ramps with Handrails for ensuring barrier free access to schools.

Further, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has proactively taken many initiatives to promote the accessibility of education such as:

(i) **PRASHAST** - A Disability Screening Checklist for Schools - PRASHAST - A Disability Screening Checklist for Schools' booklet and mobile app covers the 21 disabilities, including the benchmark disabilities as per the RPwD Act 2016. This initiative facilitates early screening, leading to certification of Children with disabilities, as per the provisions of Samagra Shiksha.

(ii) **Barkhaa**: UDL based Reading Series for 'All' - Barkhaa Series is a supplementary 'Graded Reading Series' formulated with the objective of enabling children to develop reading skills during the early years, as a pedagogic tool aimed at helping the children of Classes I and II in learning to read with meaning and to arouse in them the urge to read more and more.

(iii) **Teaching Learning Resources in Indian Sign Language** - This initiative realizes and promotes inclusion of students with HI in mainstream education. More than 935 Universal Design of Learning (UDL) based textbook videos, prepared by NCERT are available on DIKSHA along with 10,500 ISL dictionary words.

(iv) **Audio Books** - The textbook is available in e Pub talking book format which can be read through Text to Speech (TTS) app and also in audio format, using drama and sound of animals, picture description etc. are developed with the aim to enhance accessibility for Children with Visual Impairment (CwVI) and also for realizing the need of anytime and anywhere access.

(v) **Priya**-The Accessibility Warrior - The comic book named "Priya -The Accessibility Warrior" provides glimpses into the world of a girl named Priya who met an accident and her leg was plastered. This book brings the message of accessibility and helps in spreading the actionable points for enhancing accessibility. The comic book is available on DIKSHA Portal, E-Pathshala, and NCERT website for everyone to access and read the comic book with embedded ISL video and audio in flipbook, pdf and ePub.

(vi) **PM eVIDYA** - Under PM eVidya, 12 DTH channels (one class, one channel) initiative by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, many live programs are broadcast daily to facilitate students' learning through leveraging the ICT solutions. One of the live series is "Teaching Learning Interventions for Inclusive Classrooms". Each episode is of half an (30 Minutes) hour duration with a mandatory ISL interpreter. More than 594 episodes worth 297 hours broadcast time are available as archive on NCERT official YouTube channel.
