

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 149**  
ANSWERED ON 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

**Free Textbooks/Identification of School in Rural Areas under SSA**

149. SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI:  
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:  
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:  
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:  
SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL:  
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the amount sanctioned under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for construction of new schools in the States of Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- (b) the details of children who have been provided free text books under the scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu during the last three years;
- (c) whether there is a shortage of availability of books for students in the rural areas even after the launch of Samagra Shiksha scheme;
- (d) if so, the steps/measures taken by the Government to make availability of books to children in rural areas and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government is also aware that majority of schools in the rural areas in the States of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Odisha have been neglected and need to be renovated; and
- (f) if so, the details of such schools identified in the rural areas and also the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): The amount sanctioned for new schools/upgradation of schools including Additional Classrooms at the secondary and senior secondary levels and Rejuvenation of Basic Infrastructure from 2018-19 to November, 2023 in the States of Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands is given below:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Outlay sanctioned
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	294.79
Maharashtra	62086.35
Odisha	41703.99
Tamil Nadu	41966.07

Source: PRABANDH Portal

(b): The number of children in Tamil Nadu for whom free textbooks have been approved under Samagra Shiksha during the last three years including the current year is as under:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of children</b>
2021-22	42,83,411
2022-23	43,65,794
2023-24	47,84,135

Source: PRABANDH Portal

(c) & (d): To promote equitable access and to improve the learning outcomes among children, there is a provision under the scheme of Samagra Shiksha to provide free textbooks to all children in Government/Local Body and Government Aided schools of all States/UTs at elementary level. All children in these schools are provided with free textbooks based on the latest available UDISE+ enrolment in different States/UTs. The UDISE+ data includes all schools located in both rural and urban areas across the country. The States/UTs are advised to ensure timely distribution of textbooks with real time monitoring so that all children receive textbooks before the start of new academic session. During 2023-24, free textbooks have been approved for 10,41,77,658 children across the country.

(e) & (f): Education is a subject in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and most of the schools come under jurisdiction of concerned States and UTs. State and UT Governments are the appropriate Governments under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, and have the responsibility and mandate to provide infrastructure in schools in accordance with the norms laid down in the Schedule to the RTE Act, 2009 and as per respective State RTE Rules.

The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education is implementing Samagra Shiksha from 2018-19 to support States and UTs, including Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Odisha for strengthening of existing Government schools and for creation and augmentation of infrastructure facilities based on the gaps determined from Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+) and proposals received from respective State/ Union Territory. The need for schools and also the infrastructural facilities in schools are worked out every year by the respective State/Union Territory on incremental basis depending on their need and priority and reflected in their Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B). These plans are then appraised and approved/estimated by the Project Approval Board (PAB) in the Department of School Education & Literacy in consultation with the States and Union Territories as per the programmatic and financial norms of the scheme, physical and financial progress of works sanctioned earlier and availability of budgetary resources.

Further, the Department of School Education & Literacy has approved a project on Rejuvenation of Basic Infrastructure and overall cleanliness in Government schools in approximately 1.20 lakh Government schools across the country, including the schools of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Odisha, with an overall budget estimate of Rs. 4590 crores under Samagra Shiksha scheme. The interventions covered under the project are major/minor repairs, functional toilets (boys/girls), electricity connections, functional drinking water facility and boundary walls. The objective is to fill up infrastructure gaps in government schools across the country through Samagra Shiksha and convergence with all relevant schemes of Government of India.

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