

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.187
ANSWERED ON-04.12.2023

Education to Specially-abled Children under NEP

187. SHRI MANOJ KOTAK:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state.

(a) whether the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 advocates full equity and inclusion as the cornerstone of education to ensure that all students are able to thrive in the education system;

(b) if so, whether education centres for visual, speech and hearing impaired students are run by the Government and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the teachers are being trained to impart education to specially-abled students; and

(d) whether the Government has any data on the number of specially-abled students educated or vocationally trained in the last five years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) National Education Policy 2020 emphasises that Education is the single greatest tool for achieving social justice and equality. Inclusive and equitable education - while indeed an essential goal in its own right - is also critical to achieving an inclusive and equitable society in which every citizen has the opportunity to dream, thrive, and contribute to the nation. It says that the education system must aim to benefit India's children so that no child loses any opportunity to learn and excel because of circumstances of birth or background. The policy reaffirms that bridging the social category gaps in access, participation, and learning outcomes in school education will continue to be one of the major goals of all education sector development programmes.

Further, ensuring the inclusion and equal participation of children with disabilities in ECCE and the schooling system will also be accorded the highest priority. Children with Special Needs will be enabled to fully participate in the regular schooling process from the Foundational Stage to higher education.

(b) The Centrally sponsored Samagra Shiksha – is an integrated scheme for School Education of the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, covers children from pre-primary to senior secondary level, including children with Special Needs. Under Samagra Shiksha, apart from overall interventions of the scheme, there is a dedicated component for Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs (CwSN) through which various provisions are made available for the educational needs of divyang children such as, provision of aids, appliances, assistive devices & teaching learning materials (TLMs), transportation, escort and scribe allowances etc. The component support also includes annual block identification and assessment camps and stipend for disabled girls etc for supporting access to schools and completion of their schooling.

(c) NISHTHA is a holistic teacher training program of the Ministry under which teachers are being trained to impart education in inclusive classrooms. Further, NCTE has developed education programs that address the diverse learning needs of CWSN students and, NCTE has also developed accessibility Guidelines for Teacher Education Institutions.

(d) As per UDISE+, the number of specially-abled students educated or vocationally trained in the last five years is as under:

Financial Year	Number of specially-abled students
2017-18	2255063
2018-19	2111497
2019-20	2249069
2020-21	2169171
2021-22	2240358

* in 2020-21 to 2021-22 Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu merged one UTs.
