

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PLANNING  
**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3645**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2021

**ATAL TINKERING LABS**

3645. DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of Atal Tinkering Labs and the benefits it has on learning outcomes;
- (b) the list of student achievers who have used ATL to make innovations, won awards or made interesting discoveries;
- (c) whether the NITI Aayog is suggesting for making changes in school curriculum so that Atal Tinkering Labs can be used during the learning process and if so, the steps taken in this regard;
- (d) whether there are any waivers for applicants' schools in establishment of ATL labs in Himalayan and Island States; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the numbers of applications filed, accepted and rejected by schools to get ATL in the State of Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING  
AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF  
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) Atal Innovation Mission (“AIM”) is Government of India’s endeavour to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. Its objective is to serve as a platform for promotion of world-class Innovation Hubs, Grand Challenges, Start-up businesses and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology driven areas. AIM has been launched to create an innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem in India by establishing new incubation centres, scaling up established incubation centres and setting up Atal Tinkering Labs in schools.

The vision of Atal Tinkering Lab initiative is to ‘Cultivate 1 Million children in India as Neoteric Innovators’. The objective of this scheme is to foster curiosity, creativity and imagination in young minds and inculcate skills such as design mind-set, computational thinking, adaptive learning, physical computing, rapid calculations, measurements etc. These ATLs are equipped with latest emerging technologies such as electronics, IoT, 3D printing, Robotics, etc.

- (b) Atal Innovation Mission organises various contests/events and programs to foster the spirit of innovation and creativity within young minds. Every year, AIM organizes ATL Marathon challenge where top innovations created by students are identified and given further support through mentoring and training in collaboration with Atal Incubation Centres and AIM partners. The list of top innovation teams is available on the AIM website. For example, Atal Innovation Mission has identified the Top 50 Innovations of their last year’s ATL Marathon. The details and stories of these Top 50 teams is available on the AIM website. Link: <https://www.aim.gov.in/pdf/Coffee Table Book Final.pdf>
- (c) The Atal Tinkering Labs are set up to nurture the curiosity and foster innovation. Currently, ATL ecosystem is set to supplement hands-on learning by inculcating 21st century skills such as Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, IoT, Coding, 3D design, etc. AIM is collaborating with relevant stakeholders and has created relevant learning modules around the above topics for inclusion in National Curriculum Framework, which can be leveraged by the existing school ecosystem.
- (d) Yes, following are the waivers for schools from Hilly/Himalayan and Island states/UTs:
- Infrastructure - All weather area (1,000 sq. ft.) instead of (1,500 sq. ft.) for plain regions.
  - Enrolment - Min. 250 students in Grade VI – X instead of Min. 400 Grade VI – X for plain regions
- (e) The required information is placed in the table below:

<b>State</b>	<b>No. of applications received</b>	<b>No. of applications accepted (No. of schools selected)</b>	<b>No. of schools rejected</b>
<b>Gujarat</b>	3122	791	2331
<b>Uttarakhand</b>	634	134	500
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	4698	1458	3240

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