

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5082  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.04.2022**

**Bal Vatikas**

**5082. SHRI JAYANT SINHA:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Balvatikas under the New Education Policy 2020 allow for smoother transition for students from Anganwadis to Schools, and reduce transition loss and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of Bal Vatikas established in the country so far, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has constructed mechanisms to ensure convergence between various Ministries to ensure smooth implementation of education programmes, especially the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Women and Child Development; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) Para 1.6 of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 states that prior to the age of 5 every child will move to a “Preparatory Class” or “Balavatika” (that is, before Class 1). The learning in the Preparatory Class shall be based primarily on play-based learning with a focus on developing cognitive, affective, and psychomotor abilities and early literacy and numeracy. The PM POSHAN programme shall also be extended to the Preparatory Classes in primary schools. Health check-ups and growth monitoring that are available in the Anganwadi system shall also be made available to Preparatory Class students of Anganwadi as well as of primary schools. Children who enter Grade-I come from diverse background and have diverse learning abilities, therefore, to support the learning and smooth transition of children

entering Grade-I, NCERT has developed a three-month play based programme called Vidya Pravesh. Vidya Pravesh is an integral part of the NIPUN Bharat Mission which focuses on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy. The programme suggests play-based and developmentally appropriate learning experiences in the form of activities, illustrations, and worksheets designed in accordance with the skills and concepts of NIPUN Bharat Mission.

- (b) The State/UT-wise data of total number of schools with pre-primary classes is at Annexure-I.
- (c)& (d) For ensuring coordination and convergence with the different ministries, the Ministry of Education has constituted a special Joint Task Force (JTF) including representatives of different Ministries to oversee the implementation of ECCE as per NEP 2020. JTF has representatives from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Defence, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Department of Sports.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5082 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.04.2022 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SHRI JAYANT SINHA REGARDING "BAL VATIKAS"**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>State/UTs</b>	<b>Total No. of Schools with Pre-Primary Classes</b>
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	272
2	Andhra Pradesh	2322
3	Arunachal Pradesh	554
4	Assam	14330
5	Bihar	149
6	Chandigarh	95
7	Chhattisgarh	67
8	Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6
9	Delhi	1613
10	Goa	44
11	Gujarat	109
12	Haryana	938
13	Himachal Pradesh	2418
14	Jammu & Kashmir	11408
15	Jharkhand	14542
16	Karnataka	740
17	Kerala	2945
18	Ladakh	498
19	Lakshadweep	20
20	Madhya Pradesh	856
21	Maharashtra	1734
22	Manipur	687
23	Meghalaya	4084
24	Mizoram	407
25	Nagaland	1642
26	Odisha	67
27	Puducherry	293
28	Punjab	5010
29	Rajasthan	473
30	Sikkim	738
31	Tamilnadu	1717
32	Telangana	378
33	Tripura	81
34	Uttar Pradesh	1375
35	Uttarakhand	6
36	West Bengal	46760
	<b>Total</b>	<b>119378</b>
<b>Source: UDISE+ 2020-21 (Provisional)</b>		