

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1149
ANSWERED ON 29th JULY, 2024**

Free Education to All

1149. Shri Vijayakumar Alias Vijay Vasanth:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to introduce free education to all up to higher education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and road map in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c) The Right to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 effective from 1st April, 2010 is applicable to all States and UTs and mandates the appropriate Government to provide free and compulsory elementary education to every child of the age 6 to 14 years in a neighborhood school. Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, 2009 provides for admission of children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups in the schools specified in sub-clauses (iii) and (iv) of clause (n) of section 2 in Class I (or below) to the extent of at least 25 percent of the strength of that class. The total budget allocated under 12(1)(c) to all the States/UTs is as under :

S.No.	Year	Funds approved (Rs. in lakh)
1.	2021-22	164011.86
2.	2022-23	158692.83
3.	2023-24	213981.44

Source : PRABANDH

Samagra Shiksha, launched in 2018, is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from preschool to Class 12 with the broader goal of

improving school effectiveness measured in terms of equal opportunities for schooling and equitable learning outcomes by subsuming the three erstwhile Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE). Central share of Samagra Shiksha allocated in last 3 years is as under :

S.No.	Year	Allocated Central Share (Rs. In crore)
1.	2021-22	34,671
2.	2022-23	44,494
3.	2023-24	45,654

Source : PRABANDH

The new integrated scheme envisages school education as a continuum from pre-school to senior secondary level and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels. The main objectives of the scheme are provision of quality education and enhancing learning outcomes of students, bridging social and gender gaps in school education, ensuring minimum standards in schooling provision, support to states in the implementation of RTE Act, 2009 and strengthening of teacher education institutions. This scheme focuses on providing support to all States/ UTs for different interventions like; in-service training of teachers and schools heads, conduct of achievement surveys at National and State level, composite school grant to every school for providing a conducive learning environment, library grants, provision of textbooks and school uniforms as per Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA), remedial teaching for academically weaker students, ICT and digital initiatives, grants for sports and physical education, School Evaluation, Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat (PBBB), Performance Indicators for Teachers (PINDICS), Kala Utsav, Excursion trips for students, Twinning of Schools and Student and Teacher Exchange Programme.

A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme named Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) has been launched in 2022. These 14500 schools, including elementary, Secondary and Higher Secondary, are to showcase the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 and emerge as exemplar schools over a period of time, and also offer leadership to other schools in the neighbourhood. The major interventions in the PM SHRI Scheme includes Quality and Innovation (Learning Enhancement Programme, Holistic Progress Card, Innovative Pedagogies, Bagless days, Internships with Local artisans, Capacity building etc.) and beneficiary oriented entitlements under Right to Education (RTE) Act.
