

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 38
ANSWERED ON 25th November, 2024**

Free Education from Class I to XII

38. Dr. Kalyan Vaijinathrao Kale:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to provide free education to all from class first to class twelfth, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to provide any other facilities to students in order to take interest for higher education, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the budget allocation for higher education for schools in rural and under privileged areas during the last three years; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide more funds for free education especially in rural schools?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) 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.

Samagra Shiksha had been launched throughout the country as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with effect from the year 2018-19. This programme subsumes the three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA),

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE). It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. The scheme has also been aligned with the recommendations of National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which should take care of diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.

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 throughout country including rural areas. 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 eligibility, 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.

Also, under the Scheme financial assistance is provided to the States and UTs for Universalization of School Education including opening/strengthening of new schools upto senior secondary level, construction of school buildings & additional classrooms, development/strengthening of school infrastructure in northern border areas under Vibrant Village Programme, setting up, up-gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, construction of hostels for PVTGs under PM-JANMAN, setting up of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas, construction of hostels under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan for unsaturated ST population, reimbursement under RTE Act, various qualitative components, strengthening of teacher education and strengthening of DIETs/BRCs/CRCs, provision of ICT and digital interventions.

The Samagra Shiksha scheme also gives attention to urban deprived children, children affected by periodic migration and children living in remote and scattered habitations. Under the scheme, provision has been made for giving preference to Special Focus Districts (SFDs), Educationally Backward Blocks (EEBs), LWE (Left Wing Extremism) affected districts, and aspirational districts while planning interventions.

(c) Budget allocation under the Samagra Shiksha scheme during the last three years is as under :

S.No.	Year	Revised Estimates (Rs. In crore)
1.	2021-22	30,000.00
2.	2022-23	32,514.67
3.	2023-24	33,000.00

Source : Finance Division

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. Revised estimate of PM-SHRI scheme for the year 2023-24 was Rs. 2800 crore.

(d) The Central Government makes appropriate allocation of funds to State and Union Territories from time to time under various schemes.
