

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2750
ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025

Improvement in the condition of Government Schools in Rural Areas of Aspirational Districts

2750. Smt. Malvika Devi:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- the steps being taken by the Government to improve the conditions of the Government schools especially in rural areas of aspirational districts;
- the number of Government schools started in the country during the last year and particularly in Odisha especially in Kalahandi and Nuapada districts;
- the steps being taken by the Government for smart classes in the Government schools; and
- the number of Government schools in Odisha having smart classes including Kalahandi and Nuapada districts?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHOUDHARY)

(a): The Government is actively working towards strengthening Government schools and improving quality of education in rural areas of aspirational districts through different policy measures and programmes such as the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Samagra Shiksha Scheme.

The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), launched in January 2018, aims at rapid and effective transformation of 112 under-developed districts across sectors which are critical for improving quality of life or economic productivity of citizens. The programme focuses on 49 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) across five key sectors viz; Health & Nutrition, Education, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, Agriculture & Water Resources, and Basic Infrastructure. Education consists of eight KPIs focussing on learning outcomes as well as

infrastructural and institutional indicators, and accounts for 30% weightage in composite scores used for ranking and tracking performance of aspirational districts through the Champions of Change Dashboard (<http://championsofchange.gov.in/site/coc-home/>).

The broad strategy of the programme is not to run any additional scheme, but to ensure that development works under the existing schemes of Central and State Governments, are implemented effectively in Aspirational Districts through convergence and collaboration, so as to make improvement in the KPIs. Additionally, to instil a sense of healthy competition among district teams for better performance, top performing districts are given performance grants under the programme.

Besides, the Government through the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha prioritizes strengthening and saturation of school infrastructure and facilities such as Science Labs, ICT labs, Smart Classrooms and other facilities in the Government Schools located in the Aspirational Districts.

Special focus on augmenting schooling infrastructure in rural areas and Educationally Backward Blocks/Aspirational Districts is provided under Samagra Shiksha through extensive support for Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs), Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Awasiya Vidyalayas (NSCBVs), as also through convergence with schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).

(b) The number of newly established government schools in the country and Odisha, particularly Kalahandi and Nuapada districts, is given in Table-1.

Table-1 Newly established government schools

	Total Government Schools in 2021	Government Schools Established in 2022	Government Schools Established in 2023
India	10,22,386	1,576	1,056
Odisha	49,072	71	4
Kalahandi - Odisha	2170	-	-
Nuapada - Odisha	904	-	-

Source- UDISE+ various reports

(c) & (d) There is a dedicated provision under the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) component of the Samagra Shiksha Scheme, to impart computer literacy and computer-enabled learning to students, by developing and deploying curriculum-based interactive multimedia, digital books, ICT labs, smart classroom etc. across the country. The scheme supports the establishment of smart classrooms in government schools, including support for

hardware, educational software and e-content for teaching, through financial assistance to States/UTs. This includes non-recurring grant of Rs. 2.40 lakh for 2 smart classrooms per school and recurring grant of Rs. 38,000/- per school per annum to cater for e-Content and digital resources, charges for electricity, etc. Number of Government schools in Odisha having smart classrooms including Kalahandi and Nuapada districts is given in Table-2.

Table-2 Number of Government schools in Odisha

	Government Schools with Smart Class facility
Odisha	12,505
Kalahandi - Odisha	282
Nuapada - Odisha	193

Source- UDISE+ 2023-24
