

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1171
ANSWERED ON 08.12.2025

Two Board Exams

1171. Dr. Mallu Ravi:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the official data on student uptake for the first-ever cycle of the 'two board exams' for classes X and XII, which is being held in the 2024-25 academic session (with the first exam in Nov.-Dec., 2024);
- (b) the details of logistical and financial preparations made by the Government to ensure the smooth conduct of this new bi-annual exam format, including the availability of new textbooks and teacher training; and
- (c) the details of the status of consensus-building with various State Examination Boards to adopt this new NCF-mandated exam structure in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), as per the recommendations of NEP-2020 has decided to conduct Two Board Examination from 2026 for Class X. The first examination of class X will be conducted in the month of February-March 2026 for which 2513847 number of candidate have enrolled and for the 2nd exam List of Candidates (LoC) will be opened after the declaration of result. Hence, there is no estimate of the numbers of candidates, who will appear for the Second Board Examination during May/June 2026.

As far as conduct of Two Board examinations is concerned, CBSE is making all arrangements as per Board's approved norms and also conduct capacity building programmes of all concerned stakeholders.

The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, and the subsequent National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE), 2023, prepared by NCERT, provide broad guiding principles for curricula and textbooks at the national level. NCERT textbooks are developed in alignment with these frameworks. The NEP, 2020 in its para 4.32 states that, “States will prepare their own curricula (which may be based on the NCFSE prepared by NCERT to the extent possible) and prepare textbooks (which may be based on the NCERT textbook materials to the extent possible), incorporating State flavour and material as needed. While doing so, it must be borne in mind that NCERT curriculum would be taken as the nationally acceptable criterion.”

Para 4.37 of NEP, 2020 states that all students shall be allowed to take Board examinations “on up to two occasions during any given school year, one main examination and one for improvement”. This provision aims to eliminate the stress and provide students with flexibility, choice, and an opportunity for self-improvement without stigma. PARAKH at NCERT is engaging with all State School Boards with a view to create equivalence in Curriculum and Assessment.

However, as Education is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, the implementation of various aspects of NEP for schools under State Boards lies within the jurisdiction of the respective State Governments.
