

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1353**  
ANSWERED ON- 08/12/2025

**CHALLENGES IN REMOTE AREAS FOR CHILDREN**

†1353. Shri Gyaneshwar Patil:

Shri Bhumare Sandipanrao Asaram:

Smt. Delkar Kalaben Mohanbhai:

Shri Nilesh Dnyandev Lanke:

Dr. Shivaji Bandappa Kalge:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that children in remote areas across the country are facing serious challenges while approaching/accessing schools even after fifteen years of the implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any study has been conducted in this regard to understand the gravity and extent of the said problem and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any action has been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to address the hurdles being faced by children in remote and rural areas of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise particularly in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and the UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d): Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and most of the schools are within the purview of respective State Government and UT Administration, which are the appropriate Government under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

The RTE Act, 2009, guarantees free and compulsory education to all children between the ages of 6 to 14 years and lays down minimum norms for neighbourhood schools. To ensure universal access to elementary schools, Section 6 of the RTE Act mandates the establishment of schools by the appropriate government within defined area or neighbourhood limits.

Advancements have been made in improving universal access from 2018-19 and 2024-25 at all levels of school education as evidenced by Gross Access Ratio (GAR) which is total villages/habitations having school within specified distance norm in a year out of total villages/habitations in that year-

<b>Year</b>	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Upper Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Higher Secondary</b>
<b>2018-19</b>	97.15	96.49	88.24	65.05
<b>2024-25</b>	97.83	96.57	95.35	94.97

Moreover, the Gross Access Ratio (GAR) for 2018-19 and 2024-25 for Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and UT of Dadar and Nagar Haveli reflects improved universal access across all levels of school education-

**2018-19:**

<b>State</b>	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Upper Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Higher Secondary</b>
Madhya Pradesh	99.45	99.70	83.92	50.31
Maharashtra	95.51	84.84	94.08	55.23
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	100.00	100.00	90.83	43.64

**2024-25:**

<b>State</b>	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Upper Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Higher Secondary</b>
Madhya Pradesh	99.53	99.78	94.58	91.95
Maharashtra	97.83	91.35	89.77	85.82
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	100.00	100.00	98.30	85.92

The Department of School Education and Literacy is implementing an Integrated Centrally Sponsored Scheme for School Education- Samagra Shiksha since 2018-19. The scheme has been aligned with the recommendations of the National Education Policy, 2020

with aim to ensure that all children have access to qualitative and holistic education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which should take care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.

Under Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for undertaking various activities 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, setting up of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas, construction of hostels for PVTGs under PM-JANMAN, construction of hostels under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan for unsaturated ST population, free uniforms to eligible children and free text books at elementary level, transport allowance and undertaking enrolment & retention drives. Special training for age-appropriate admission of out of school children and residential as well as non-residential training for older children, seasonal hostels / residential camps, special training centres at worksites, transport/ escort facility are also supported to bring out of school children to the formal schooling system including support to complete their education through NIOS/SIOS. Under the student-oriented component for the children with special needs, financial assistance is provided for identification and assessment of children with special needs, aids and appliances, braille kits and books, appropriate teaching learning material and stipend to girl students with disability etc.

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