

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1579
ANSWERED ON 09.02.2026

Compulsory use of Maithili as Medium of Instruction in Mithila Region

†1579. Shri Gopal Jee Thakur:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is making arrangements to ensure adequate Central support for the integration of three years of pre-primary education at the foundation stage in rural areas under the National Education Policy, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the strategy adopted by the Government to make mother tongue Maithili, compulsory as the medium of instruction at least upto Class-V in Mithila region;
- (c) the manner in which the requirement of making the mother tongue/local language compulsory is likely to be balanced with the need for multilingual proficiency at the middle and secondary level of education;
- (d) whether the Government has finalised the mechanism for the implementation of new Board examinations policy that proposes to conduct exams twice a year; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): In the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, for the first time, 3 years of pre-schools (Balvatika) is recognized as a continuum of education in the 5+3+3+4 structure where the foundational stage is 3 years of pre-school and grade 1 & grade 2. The Department of School Education (DoSE&L), Ministry of Education (MoE) through the schemes/programmes/initiatives has ensured that the States & Union Territories (UTs) receive adequate central support to integrate three years of pre-primary education into the new Foundational Stage (FS). As

envisaged in NEP 2020, to achieve universal foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) by end of Grade 2, a national mission called NIPUN Bharat Mission has been launched.

NIPUN Bharat Mission: A flagship national mission called “National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)” was launched on 5th July, 2021 for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains FLN by the end of Grade 2. This Mission has been set up under the aegis of the Samagra Shiksha. All 36 States/Union Territories are implementing NIPUN-Bharat Mission (NBM). Financial norms for the following components are provided under the NBM:

- Support to pre-school education/co-located anganwadi centers (recurring & non-recurring)
- Teaching Learning Materials for implementation of Innovative pedagogies
- Teacher Resource Material/Activity Handbook
- Capacity building of Teachers of Grades I & II
- Independent, periodic and holistic assessment of students
- Formation of Project Management Unit (PMU) at state and district level

In order to integrate the pre-school (Balvatika) in the foundational stage, following progress has been made:

- **NCF-FS:** National Curricular Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) was released on 20th October, 2022 providing a structure for the syllabus, training of teachers, Learning Teaching Material (LTM), etc. It is the first ever integrated curriculum framework for children between ages 3-8 in India.
- **Vidya Pravesh:** A 3-months play based ‘School Preparation Module and Guidelines’ for Grade I named ‘Vidya Pravesh’ was launched on 29th July, 2021. The goal of Vidya Pravesh programme is to promote school preparedness in all children coming to Grade- I from diverse backgrounds (Balvatika, Anganwadi Centers (AWCs), at home, private play schools etc.), to ensure a smooth transition of children to Grade-I. This programme is implemented across the country. At present, all 36 States and UTs have implemented Vidya Pravesh Programme.
- **Co-location of Anganwadi Centers (AWCs):** As envisaged in NEP 2020, one of the models to ensure universal access to high quality Early Childhood Care & Education consists of Anganwadis co-located schools having Grade 1. In this regard, the DoSE&L, MoE in collaboration with the Ministry of Women & Child Development has launched the “Guidelines for Co-location of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) with Schools” on 3rd September, 2025.

(b) & (c): Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution of India and majority of the schools are under the domain of the State Government & UT administration. As per para 4.13 of the NEP 2020, *“The three-language formula will continue to be implemented while keeping in mind the Constitutional provisions, aspirations of the people, regions, and the Union, and the need to promote multilingualism as well as promote national unity. However, there will be a greater flexibility in the three-language formula, and no language will be imposed on any State. The three languages learned by children will be the choices of States, regions, and of course the students themselves, so long as at least two of the three languages are native to India. In particular, students who wish to change one or more of the three languages they are studying may do so in Grade 6 or 7, as long as they are able to demonstrate basic proficiency in three languages (including one language of India at the literature level) by the end of secondary school.”*

The policy of the Government is to promote all Indian languages. The NEP, 2020 lays stress on promoting multilingualism and making efforts to keep Indian languages vibrant. The NEP 2020 mentions that wherever possible the medium of instruction up to at least class 5 and preferably up to class 8 will be in the home language/mother tongue/local language/regional language. The policy emphasizes that teaching should be in the home language/local language/regional language and learning of Indian languages should be integrated with school education so that students have the option of studying in any Indian language. As a follow-up of NEP, 2020, the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023 was launched in July 2023 and the following initiatives have been taken in the area of school education to promote Indian languages:

- (i) NCERT has developed and published textbooks in 22 scheduled languages for Grades 1 to 3 and 6. The textbooks are available at NCERT’s website <https://ncert.nic.in>.
- (ii) The Jaadui Pitara (JP), a set of 53 play-based learning-teaching materials for ages 3-8 was launched on 20th February 2023. Available in 22 Indian languages and English, JP includes toys, puzzles, story cards, flashcards, and teacher handbooks. Its digital extension, the e-Jaadui Pitara, launched on 10th February 2024, offers multilingual stories, activities, songs in 22 Indian languages, and AI-based bots-Katha Sakhi, Teacher Tara, and Parent Tara-to support children, teachers, and parents. As envisaged in NEP 2020, these initiatives are an integral part of the foundational stage.
- (iii) Primers (launched in March, 2024) have been developed in 121 local languages, for FLN in mother tongues spoken by populations of at least 10,000. Primers are available at <https://ncert.nic.in/primers.php?ln=en>.
- (iv) The Ministry of Education initiated a nationwide programme to promote all Indian languages through the programme of Bhasha Sangam. Children in school learn 100 sentences in

the 22 scheduled languages with audio and video support. Schools across the country are participating and learning the Indian languages. Both textual and audio-video materials are available on DIKSHA portal at <https://ncert.nic.in/bs-2021.php>.

(v) The Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya provides quality books to children and adolescents, ensuring accessibility across diverse geographies, languages, genres, and educational levels. The platform offers 5,000+ non-academic books in 23 languages making a wide range of resources available to users.

(vi) The PM e-Vidya initiative has expanded to 200 DTH TV channels with vision of “One Nation, One Digital Platform”, delivering curriculum-aligned content in various 128 Indian languages and 7 foreign languages, enhancing reach and inclusivity of rural area.

(vii) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has prescribed using child’s home language, mother tongue or a familiar regional language, as a medium of instruction at the foundational stage and also at the preparatory stage. The notification dated 22.05.2025 is available at https://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Circulars/2025/30_Circular_2025.pdf

(d) & (e): CBSE has notified two Board Examinations in Class X from 2026 and its mechanism vide its notification dated 25.06.2025. The notification is available at https://www.cbse.gov.in/cbsenew/documents/Notification_Two_Board_Examinations_Class_X_2026_25062025.pdf. The main responsibility of CBSE is to register candidates in Classes IX and XI and to conduct the annual Class X and XII examinations for its affiliated schools. In addition, CBSE undertakes reforms in examination and evaluation practices to equip students to meet present and future challenges. The recent reforms, including conducting board examinations twice a year, are aligned with the NEP 2020, which aims to reduce high-stakes exam pressure and promote flexibility and competency-based learning over rote memorization.
