

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 297
ANSWERED ON 02/02/2026

Pending Central Funds for Education Sector in Kerala

297. Shri K Radhakrishnan:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that substantial Central funds meant for the education sector are pending to the State of Kerala, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that as on September 2025, Central assistance amounting to Rs. 1,248.13 crore under Samagra Shiksha and Rs. 636.88 crore and Rs. 750.93 crore under University Grants Commission–related benefits are pending to Kerala;
- (c) if so, the details of reasons for withholding or delaying the release of these funds despite Kerala's consistently strong performance in school education and higher education indicators; and
- (d) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to immediately release the pending dues and ensure timely, non-discriminatory funding to States for the education sector?

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 majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha is implemented in partnership with all the States and UTs. Financial assistance is provided to all States and UTs for various components for implementation of the interventions under Samagra Shiksha as per norms. Accordingly, the annual plans under Samagra Shiksha are prepared by the States and UTs based on their requirements and priority and this is reflected in their respective Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B). These plans are then appraised and approved by Project Approval Board (PAB) in consultation with the States and UTs as per the programmatic and financial norms of the scheme. Financial assistance under Samagra Shiksha is provided to all States and Union Territories for various interventions in accordance with the norms of the Scheme and the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance from time to time.

As per the Samagra Shiksha Scheme, there is no provision for carrying forward pending recurring activities from the previous financial year. However, pending non-recurring activities at the end of a financial year are allowed to be taken up in the

subsequent financial year as committed liabilities based on demands submitted by the concerned State/UTs.

The scheme of Samagra Shiksha has been aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of PM-SHRI envisages 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. Kerala signed the MoU for PM SHRI in October, 2025. Kerala is yet to complete the process for school selection under PM SHRI Scheme.

An amount of Rs. 92.41 Crore has been released to the State of Kerala as 1st instalment during current financial year out of Central Share of Rs. 452.04 Crore allocated for FY 2025-26. The balance Central Share will be released to the State subject to compliance with release criteria of the scheme and guidelines of Ministry of Finance issued from time to time. No such grants are pending for release by the University Grants Commission (UGC). Further, funds amounting to Rs. 3892.67 lakh have been released by UGC to the higher educational institutions (HEIs) of Kerala State for the year 2025-26, up to September 2025.

Since, the State of Kerala is implementing Samagra Shiksha Scheme which has been aligned with NEP 2020, it would be appropriate that the States come forward to implement and showcase all the initiatives of NEP 2020 including under PM SHRI Scheme in order to develop government schools of the States as exemplar schools to facilitate best school education services. In fact, implementation of Samagra Shiksha Scheme is implementation of NEP 2020 and PM SHRI Schools are exemplar schools of NEP 2020.
