

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 327
ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026

Budget Estimates for Schools Education

327. Shri Vishaldada Prakashbapu Patil:

Ms. Praniti Sushilkumar Shinde:

Adv Gowaal Kagada Padavi:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of reasons for the 6.57 per cent reduction in the Budget Estimates for the Department of School Education and Literacy for 2025-26 vis-à-vis the Ministry's projected requirement of 84,100.84 Crore;
- (b) the timeline for establishing the proposed 500 crore Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence for Education and the criteria for selection of its location; and
- (c) the number of schools in Nandurbar, Bhandara, Solapur, Sangli and Dhule districts upgraded under PM-SHRI and the status of Atal Tinkering Labs in Government schools as of December 2025?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Budget Allocation for FY 2025–26 is ₹78,572.10 crore, reflecting an increase of ₹5,074 crore over FY 2024–25 i.e., ₹73498.10 Crore. This represents a growth of 6.90 percent during FY 2025–26 vis-à-vis FY 2024–25. Further, budget allocations are made on the basis of projected demands, expenditure trends of previous years and the Revised Estimates by Ministry of Finance, while also taking

into account overall fiscal constraints and competing demands from various Ministries/Departments.

(b) The Government of India has established a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Education following its announcement in the Union Budget 2025-26 as part of the vision to "Make AI in India and Make AI work for India".

The AI-CoE for Education has been established at IIT Madras, with an outlay of Rs. 500 crores. The establishment followed a multi stage evaluation process of proposals from leading academic institutions across the country during June–September 2025. The evaluation committee led by industry experts from education and AI sectors focussed on technical robustness, pedagogical depth, faculty experience and scalability of each proposal.

The AI-CoE is envisaged to drive innovation, research, and development in AI-powered educational tools and personalised adaptive learning to enhance equitable access to quality education across the country.

(c) The list of number of schools upgraded under PM SHRI Scheme is placed below:

S.No.	Name of district	Number of PM SHRI Schools selected
1.	Nandurbar	16
2.	Bhandara	21
3.	Solapur	39
4.	Sangli	24
5.	Dhule	10

As per information received from NITI Aayog, 5,513 ATLs are currently functional in government schools across the country.
