

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3703
ANSWERED ON- 16.03.2026

**AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN HIGHER
EDUCATION FACILITIES**

3703. Dr. Amar Singh:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any assessment of the availability and adequacy of educational infrastructure, including schools, colleges and higher education institutions in the country particularly in Fatehgarh Sahib Lok Sabha Constituency, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to establish or upgrade any Central Government educational institutions, including Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas, Central Universities or professional colleges, in the said constituency;
- (c) the amount of funds sanctioned and released under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for strengthening school education, digital learning and teacher training in the said constituency during the last five years;
- (d) whether the Government is aware of the lack of higher education and professional education opportunities in the region leading to migration of students and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve access to quality education and skill-oriented courses for students in the said constituency?

ANSWER

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

(a): Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools and colleges are under the administrative domain of the respective State/UT Government.

After implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 various schemes/projects/programmes run by the Ministry of Education have been aligned with the NEP 2020 and a number of transformative initiatives have been undertaken both at school education level and higher education level.

In alignment with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Government has launched the third phase of Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) in June 2023 in the form of Pradhan Mantri Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26 with an outlay of Rs. 12926.10 crore, to cater to the needs of educationally unserved/ underserved areas. The scheme has been further extended till 31st March,2028, for completion of PM-USHA projects and for an additional 6 months (i.e.,30th September, 2026) for completion of ongoing RUSA projects.

Under the scheme, States/ UTs have the flexibility to utilize funds for undertaking the various activities including infrastructure upgradation, multidisciplinary education, imparting skill development and quality initiatives, outlined in their proposals approved by the Ministry.

So far, 86 projects amounting to ₹ 581.61 crore have been approved to the State of Punjab including a total of 11 units amounting to ₹ 34 crore in the districts Fatehgarh Sahib (2 units amounting to ₹ 6 crore), Ludhiana (7 units amounting to ₹ 24 crore), and Malerkotla (2 units amounting to ₹ 4 crore) under Fatehgarh Sahib Lok Sabha Constituency.

The number of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the district Fatehgarh Sahib of Punjab State as per AISHE 2022-23 (provisional) are as follows:

| Institutions | Number of HEIs | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| | Punjab | Fatehgarh Sahib District |
| University | 40 | 3 |
| College | 1,040 | 23 |
| Standalone | 353 | 9 |
| All HEIs | 1,433 | 35 |

As per UDISE+ the number of primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary schools in the districts of Fatehgarh Sahib, Ludhiana and Malerkotla (the districts pertaining to Fatehgarh Sahib Lok Sabha Constituency) are as follows:

| District | Primary | Upper Primary | Secondary | Higher Secondary |
|-----------------|---------|---------------|-----------|------------------|
| Fatehgarh Sahib | 447 | 152 | 67 | 123 |
| Ludhiana | 1097 | 472 | 551 | 675 |
| Malerkotla | 198 | 56 | 55 | 83 |

(b): Opening of new NVs/KVs is a continuous process and opening of new NVs/KVs depend on approval by the competent authority as per extant procedure/policy. As per the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme (one NV in each district), Navodaya Vidyalayas are functioning in Fatehgarh Sahib and Ludhiana district – part of Fatehgarh Sahib Lok Sabha Constituency) from their permanent campuses, with the requisite infrastructure as per the norms. There is one KV (PM SHRI KV, Reona Ucha) functional in Fatehgarh Sahib, while two KVs (PM SHRI KV No-1, AFS Halwara, and KV No-2, AFS Halwara) are functional in Ludhiana district. Moreover, there are 356 PM SHRI Schools in Punjab including 6 in Fatehgarh Sahib and 24 in Ludhiana district.

(c): Under the Centrally sponsored scheme, annual plans, including infrastructure development, are prepared by the respective state/UT as per their requirement and priority and the same is reflected in their Annual Work Plan & Budget proposals. These plans are then appraised/approved by the Project Approval Board in the Department in consultation with the respective State and UT based on physical and financial progress of the works sanctioned earlier and availability of budgetary resources. The financial assistance is provided to the States/UTs in an aggregate manner and not as intervention-wise/district-wise/ constitution-wise.

As informed by the State of Punjab, the funds sanctioned and released for strengthening school education, digital learning and teacher learning during the last 5 years in the Fatehgarh Sahib Lok Sabha Constituency is at Annexure I.

(d): NEP 2020 provides for more Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to be established and developed in underserved regions to ensure full access, equity and inclusion. However, enrollment in Higher education after schooling is determined not only by geographical proximity, but is also guided by other factors, viz., desire of students for learning from best teachers & researchers, exposure to diverse perspectives and culture, career pathways, employment opportunities etc. Further, setting up of central universities/HEIs is a continuous process.

(e): Improving the quality of education across all levels of education is a continuous and ongoing process.

PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) aims to develop more than 14500 selected schools as exemplar schools that offers leadership to other schools in the neighbourhood, showcasing all the initiatives of NEP 2020.

Several initiatives have been undertaken to improve access to quality education for students in Fatehgarh Sahib constituency. As informed by Punjab Government, to strengthen foundational learning, the Mission Samrath program has been implemented since the 2023–24 academic session, focusing on enhancing language and mathematics skills among students from Classes 3 to 8 through the Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) methodology. Under this mission, nearly 1.2 million students in government schools are provided with Teaching-Learning Material (TLM), and workshops and training sessions are organized for stakeholders at different levels.

Further, based on the PARAKH Survey 2024 report, the Competency Enhancement Plan (CEP) was introduced during October to December 2025 for Classes 6 to 10, aiming to address weak competencies. Students were given fortnightly practice sheets to reinforce key concepts, along with baseline and endline assessments to monitor progress.

To promote experiential learning and “Learning by Doing,” subject fairs were organized in 6,328 government schools across Punjab, where students showcased models, presentations, role plays, and projects prepared in groups.

Additionally, subject-specific circles or clubs have been established in all schools, encouraging students to participate in activities related to different subjects, thereby fostering interest and deeper engagement in academics. These combined efforts reflect the government’s commitment to strengthening educational quality and accessibility in Fatehgarh Sahib.

NEP 2020 advocates integration of skill development with mainstream education by embedding skill education across school and higher education. Under Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to the States/UTs for offering skill courses to the students from Class 9 to Class 12 and for providing skill exposure at middle level.

University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Ministry of Education have taken the following steps to provide access to quality education through digital mode-

1. SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) is a programme initiated by the Government of India and designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of Education Policy viz., access, equity and quality. The MOOCs available on the SWAYAM Platform (www.swayam.gov.in) can be accessed by anyone who is desirous of learning, at any time, and from anywhere.

2. UGC MOOC Portal: Archived SWAYAM Non-Technology Undergraduate and Postgraduate MOOCs Courses are available on the UGC MOOCs

Portal, ensuring continued access to quality academic content for students, teachers, and lifelong learners even after the live course cycle is completed on SWAYAM.

3. E-PG Pathshala: - Non-Technology postgraduate e-content is available at e-PG Pathshala (<https://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/>) and freely accessible at one place for Students/Faculty Members/professionals/ lifelong learners.

4. UGC has notified the University Grants Commission (Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) Regulations, 2021, which allows universities to take up to 40% of the total courses in a semester through online learning via the SWAYAM platform. This ensures flexibility and academic enrichment for students.

Annexure I**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3703 ANSWERED ON 16TH MARCH, 2026 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP DR. AMAR SINGH REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES**

Funds sanctioned and released for strengthening school education, digital learning and teacher learning during the last 5 years in the Fatehgarh Sahib Lok Sabha Constituency

| Year | Infrastructure for Strengthening school | | Digital learning | | teacher learning | |
|---------|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Funds Sanctioned (₹ in lakhs) | Funds released (₹ in lakhs) | Funds Sanctioned (₹ in lakhs) | Funds released (₹ in lakhs) | Funds Sanctioned (₹ in lakhs) | Funds released (₹ in lakhs) |
| 2021-22 | 482.37 | 482.37 | 807.20 | 36.00 | - | - |
| 2022-23 | 599.17 | 599.17 | 404.80 | 36.00 | 21.77 | 21.77 |
| 2023-24 | 1092.31 | 1092.31 | 259.50 | 38.50 | 15.01 | 15.01 |
| 2024-25 | 999.87 | 974.88 | 70.64 | 38.64 | 6.58 | 6.58 |
| 2025-26 | 1255.00 | 963.33 | 1259.30 | 902.80 | 5.21 | 5.21 |
