

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 29
ANSWERED ON 20.07.2026

Increasing of Education Budget

29. Shri Rajesh Naranbhai Chudasama:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the increased spending on education leads to measurable improvements in learning outcomes across primary, secondary, and higher education sectors;
- (b) the extent to which the current education budget directly address the needs of students from Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and other disadvantaged backgrounds;
- (c) the details of Government's plan to strengthen public-private partnerships to bridge gaps in infrastructure and resource availability without compromising on the quality of education; and
- (d) the details of measures taken by Government to ensure access to quality digital education for students in rural areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a): Education is in the concurrent list and both the central government and State Governments work together for its improvement. Central Government has constantly increased the Budget Allocation of the Ministry of Education from Rs.93,224.31 crore in F.Y. 2021-22 to Rs. 1,39,289.48 crore in 2026-27.

The PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan (PRS) 2024 was conducted in December 2024 to measure the baseline performance under NEP 2020 in the development of competencies among students at the end of Foundational, Preparatory and Middle Stages of Education i.e. Grades 3, 6 and 9 respectively. Over 21.15 lakh students and 2.70 lakh teachers and school leaders from more than 74,000 schools across 781 districts in all States and Union Territories participated in the survey

In Higher Education, to make the curricula relevant to contemporary industry demands and technological advancements, various initiatives / reforms have been carried out in higher education such as National Credit Framework (NCrF); National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF); Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programme; guidelines on Professor of Practice to enable HEIs to work with industry experts. Curriculum is also being updated for academic programmes in alignment with ‘Future of Work’ job requirements in the area of Agriculture, Health & Bio-electronics, Banking, Financial Services & Insurance (BFSI), Energy, Logistics, Digital & Creative Economy, AI in Engineering and Manufacturing & Industry.

With an objective of Research & Development driven integration of academic, industry and enterprise creation, Research Parks have been set up in premier HEIs including eight IITs and IISc Bengaluru to establish research ecosystem around these institutions. These research parks facilitate funded research from Industry, promoting Industry-Academia collaborations. To attract the best minds to pursue high - quality research in India's premier academic institutions, the Government launched Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) Scheme in 2018-19 with total financial outlay of Rs. 1650 Crores. The scheme was launched to attract the best and brightest minds to pursue high – quality research in India's premier academic institutions with enhanced financial support which includes fellowship and research grant. Under PMRF, 3688 scholars have been admitted. The first phase of PMRF has led to better outcomes of research and thus, 10,000 fellowships have been announced under PMRF in Budget 2025-26 for technological research with enhanced financial support

National Education Policy (NEP) guided initiatives by Government of India have led to significant improvements in the performance of Indian HEIs in international rankings, including the QS World University Rankings (QS WUR). 54 Indian Institutions have been ranked in the QS WUR 2026. The number of Indian HEIs featuring in the QS World University Rankings has doubled in the past five years, rising from 27 in QS WUR 2021 to 54 in QS WUR 2026, thus underscoring sustained policy initiatives, strengthened research and innovation capacity, and the steadily rising global profile of India's higher education system. In QS World University Rankings, Asia 2026 India has second most representation, with 294 universities, up from 163 in 2025 and 7 institutions in the top 100. The QS Subject Rankings for 2025 included 79 Indian HEIs, an increase of 10 from the previous year's 69. India's ranking in the Global Innovation Index (GII) has also propelled from 48 in 2020 and currently being ranked at 38th place in 2025.

(b): The Government is implementing various scholarship schemes for students, including those belonging to marginalized sections. The details of these schemes including the number of slots, assistance offered and eligibility criteria are available in the following websites:

S.No.	Ministry/Department	Website Links
1	Department of Higher Education	https://www.education.gov.in/en/scholarships-education-loan-0

2	Department of School Education & Literacy	https://dsel.education.gov.in/en/scheme/nmmss
3	University Grants Commission	https://www.ugc.gov.in/Home/student_Corner
4	All India Council for Technical Education	https://www.aicte.gov.in/bureaus/rifd/Scholarship-Schemes
5	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment	https://socialjustice.gov.in/schemes
6	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	https://tribal.nic.in/ScholarshiP.aspx
7	Ministry of Minority Affairs	https://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/show_content.php?lang=1&level=2&ls_id=661&lid=823
8	Department of Science and Technology	https://dst.gov.in/inspire-scheme-innovation-science-pursuit-inspired-research

The scholarship schemes are spread across the country for all students, so that the students can avail benefits of the scheme as per schematic norms, thereby reduce financial barriers for higher education aspirants. In the year 2024-25, more than 95 lakhs students pursuing post-matric and higher education have received scholarships, amounting to nearly ₹ 10,913 crores. These schemes envisage that no deserving and meritorious student is denied the opportunity to pursue education because of financial constraints. As a result, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education has increased to 30 in 2023-24 compared to 23.7 in 2014-15.

(c): As Education is in the concurrent list, the Centre and States are working together to increase the public investment in education sector to reach 6% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at the earliest.

National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 calls for the rejuvenation, active promotion, and support for private philanthropic activity in the education sector. In particular, over and above the public budgetary support which would have been otherwise provided to them, any public institution can take initiatives towards raising private philanthropic funds to enhance educational experiences.

In pursuance of the budget announcement 2025-26, Government has approved expansion of academic and infrastructure capacity including creation of Research Park of five new IITs which have been established in the State/UT of Andhra Pradesh (IIT Tirupati), Kerala (IIT Palakkad), Chhattisgarh (IIT Bhilai), Jammu & Kashmir (IIT Jammu) and Karnataka (IIT Dharwad) with a total outlay of Rs. 11,828.79 crore, which would facilitate education for additional 6,500 students.

The Department of Economic Affairs is implementing the Scheme for Financial Support to Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Infrastructure, known as the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme. Under the Scheme, financial support of up to 60% of the Total

Project Cost is provided for projects in the social sectors, namely Water Supply, Wastewater Treatment, Solid Waste Management, Health and Education, with a maximum contribution of 30% each from the Central Government and the State Government. In the case of Pilot/Demonstration Projects in the Health and Education sectors, financial support of up to 80% of the Total Project Cost is provided, subject to a maximum contribution of 40% each from the Central Government and the State Government.

(d): Both Central and State Governments are working together to ensure equitable digital access of education in all States. Some of the major initiatives of Central Government are as under:

Under Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to States/UTs, including rural, tribal and economically backward areas, inter-alia for setting up of ICT labs and Smart Classrooms in Government and Government Aided Schools having classes VI to XII.

Till date 1,79,153 ICT Labs and 1,76,738 Smart Classrooms have been sanctioned to State/UT Governments. Based on the UDISE+ data and funds approved in Project Approval Board's (PAB) meetings to States/UTs for the year 2025-26, gaps were identified in saturating ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms in Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools in States/UTs. To address this gap, 22,618 ICT Labs and 29,920 Smart Classrooms in States/UTs were approved for the saturation of these facilities in the year 2025-26. Further, to saturate all functional Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) 3,564 ICT Labs and 3,655 Smart Classrooms were approved in the year 2024-25. The year wise details of funds allocated in the last four years (i.e. from 2021-22 to 2024-25) for ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms in Government and Government-aided schools is as under:

(Rs. in lakh)		
Financial Year	ICT Labs	Smart Classrooms
2021-22	68,456	91,093
2022-23	41,824	73,823
2023-24	55,904	53,730
2024-25	54,372	59,519

The Government of India, in the Budget 2025-26, has announced provision of broadband connectivity to all Government Secondary Schools in rural areas, under the 'BharatNet' project to enhance digital infrastructure in remote areas by BSNL.

To achieve the objectives of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and to bridge the digital divide in education, a comprehensive initiative called PM eVidya was initiated as part of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan' on 17th May, 2020, which unifies all efforts related to

digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education across the country under the aegis of NEP 2020. States/UTs collaborate with NCERT to utilise, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these initiatives as per their requirements in mother tongue/local/regional languages. PM eVidya includes 200 DTH TV Channels allotted to States/UTs/Autonomous Bodies (ABs)/Other Ministries in Government of India and 400 Radio channels to enable them to provide supplementary education as per their requirement in various Indian languages for classes 1-12.

Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) is the Nation's One Nation, One Digital platform for providing quality e-content for school education including Government schools in States/UTs along with QR coded Energised Textbooks (ETBs) for all grades. States/UTs/Abs have generated and contributed over 3.7 lakh content in mother local/regional languages enabling multilingualism. DIKSHA Offline supports areas with limited or no internet connectivity. The stakeholders have access to more than 450 Virtual Labs and 100 Virtual skill labs on DIKSHA.
