

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 83
ANSWERED ON 20.07.2026

Decreasing Enrolment of Students with Disabilities

†83. Shri Tanuj Punia:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the gross enrolment of students in primary and secondary education is decreasing and a large number of these children include children with disabilities in the country and if so, the efforts being made by the Government to increase the enrolment of children with disabilities alongwith details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to provide free transport facility alongwith the recruitment of special educators and provision of ramps, lifts and wheelchairs in all Government schools to increase the enrolment of children with disabilities; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in consonance with the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, envisages equitable and inclusive quality education for all children, including Children with Special Needs (CwSN). To achieve universal access to education from pre-primary to Class XII, the Department of School Education & Literacy is implementing the centrally sponsored Samagra Shiksha scheme, which includes a dedicated component on Inclusive Education for CwSN.

As per UDISE+, the overall enrolment of CwSN and enrolment at the secondary stage have shown a consistent increase over the last three years.

To promote enrolment, retention and participation of CwSN, the Government has undertaken the following measures under Samagra Shiksha and other initiatives:

1. Financial assistance of ₹3,500 per enrolled CwSN per annum, including children receiving home-based education, is provided for identification and assessment camps, aids and assistive devices, transportation, escort and scribe allowance, Braille and large-print books, teaching-learning materials, and other support services.

2. A stipend of ₹2,000 per annum (₹200 per month for 10 months) is provided to CwSN girl students through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to encourage school attendance.
3. Samagra Shiksha provides financial support for creation of barrier-free infrastructure, including ramps and CwSN-friendly toilets.
4. The Department has notified the Accessibility Code for Educational Institutions on 10 January 2024, which was incorporated under the Rules of the RPwD Act, 2016 on 20 June 2024, to ensure accessible physical, information and communication infrastructure in educational institutions.
5. To facilitate universal early screening and identification, the Department has developed PRASHAST (Pre-Assessment Holistic Screening Tool), a digital platform designed to screen all school-going children in the age group of 3–18 years for the early identification of 21 disabilities, including benchmark disabilities notified under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. The platform serves as a critical first step towards ensuring timely support and appropriate educational planning for children requiring additional assistance. The application has been upgraded through integration with UDISE+, enabling automatic onboarding of schools and key stakeholders, including Heads of Schools, teachers, special educators and students, thereby eliminating the need for manual data entry and significantly reducing the administrative burden on teachers.
6. Since education is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, recruitment and deployment of teachers, including special educators, in Government schools are undertaken by the respective States/UTs as per their requirements and applicable norms. The Department of School Education & Literacy has notified the Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) for special educators in general schools vide Notification No. S.O. 4586(E) dated 21.09.2022, prescribing one special educator for every 10 CwSN at the primary level and one special educator for every 15 CwSN at the upper primary level. States and UTs undertake recruitment and placement of special educators in accordance with these notified norms.
7. NCERT has developed accessible digital learning resources on the DIKSHA platform in accordance with Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles, including Indian Sign Language (ISL)-based content, multilingual resources and assistive learning materials. A dedicated PM eVidya DTH Channel (Channel No. 31) telecasts educational content in Indian Sign Language for children with hearing impairment.
8. CBSE promotes inclusive education through teacher capacity-building programmes, manuals and the Handbook on Inclusive Education. CBSE has also issued guidelines mandating barrier-free infrastructure in affiliated schools and provides examination-related exemptions and concessions to CwSN in accordance with the RPwD Act, 2016.
