

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1305**  
ANSWERED ON 11/12/2023

**Pre-Primary Education**

1305. SHRI PRINCE RAJ:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any policy to make pre-primary education as an integral part of India's public school education system;
- (b) whether the Government is planning to introduce pre-primary classrooms mandatory in Government primary schools and if so, the status, State-wise, especially in Bihar;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the ambiguity related to the provisional structure of the pre-primary education and also the source of fund for it; and
- (d) the details of the status in Bihar especially in Samastipur and Darbhanga districts?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a) to (c): The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 has recommended modification of structure in school education with a new pedagogical and curricular restructuring of 5+3+3+4 covering ages 3-18 for ensuring continuum in education. In this structure, the initial five years are termed as foundational stage that includes 3 years of preschool education and Grade 1 and 2.

The Government of India has launched the National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy called 'National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy- NIPUN Bharat' on 5th July 2021 under the aegis of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha. The mission aims that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by Grade 2 by 2026.

NEP 2020 envisages that prior to the age of 5 every child will move to a "Preparatory Class" or "Balavatika" (that is, before Class 1), which has an ECCE-qualified teacher. The learning in the Preparatory Class shall be based primarily on play-based learning with a focus on developing cognitive, affective, and psychomotor abilities and early literacy and numeracy.

The Ministry of Education had launched the Integrated Scheme for School Education named as 'Samagra Shiksha' in 2018. Its framework acknowledges school as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels and set financial norms for the same in alignment with NEP 2020. For pre-primary education, all Government schools are supported as per the financial norms under Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) component which are as follows:

- i. Recurring Grant, including manpower deployment and other teaching learning aids/materials of up to Rs. 2 lakh per school per annum for pre-primary sections in Govt. primary Schools.
- ii. Provision of up to Rs. 500/- per child per annum for pre-primary sections in Govt. Schools.
- iii. Non-recurring grant of up to Rs. 1 lakh per school for Bala Features, Child friendly furniture, outdoor play materials etc. for pre-primary sections in Govt. Schools and co-located Anganwadis (once in 5 years)

Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution of India. Under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for undertaking various activities for universalization of school education. The financial assistance is based on the annual plans prepared by the States and UTs as per their requirements/ priority and is reflected in their respective Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) proposals. These plans are then appraised and approved/estimated by the Project Approval Board (PAB) in the Department of School Education & Literacy in consultation with the States and UTs as per the programmatic and financial norms of the scheme and physical and financial progress of the State for the interventions approved earlier.

The total number of pre-schools, State-wise, including Bihar is at Annexure-I.

(d): There are 11 and 2 schools having pre-primary sections/ Balvatika in Samastipur and Darbhanga districts of Bihar as per the UDISE+ (2021-22), respectively.

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ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1305 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SHRI PRINCE RAJ REGARDING "PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION"

S.No.	State/UT	Number of Government Primary Schools having Pre Primary Section
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	292
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3644
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	682
4.	Assam	25285
5.	Bihar	206
6.	Chandigarh	106
7.	Chhattisgarh	129
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	80
9.	Delhi	1622
10.	Goa	65
11.	Gujarat	160
12.	Haryana	1676
13.	Himachal Pradesh	4828
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	20676
15.	Jharkhand	15986
16.	Karnataka	1710
17.	Kerala	3386
18.	Ladakh	735
19.	Lakshadweep	19
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1506
21.	Maharashtra	2686
22.	Manipur	1064
23.	Meghalaya	4675
24.	Mizoram	455
25.	Nagaland	1713
26.	Odisha	945
27.	Puducherry	298
28.	Punjab	12909
29.	Rajasthan	2317
30.	Sikkim	778
31.	Tamilnadu	7469
32.	Telangana	1061
33.	Tripura	121
34.	Uttar Pradesh	3538
35.	Uttarakhand	11
36.	West Bengal	65312
	<b>INDIA</b>	<b>188145</b>

Source: UDISE+ 2021-22