

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO – 1003  
ANSWERED ON – 04/12/2024**

**PM SHRI Scheme**

**1003 Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla:**

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) the scheme's focus on experiential learning and critical thinking skills to prepare students for an increasingly complex and interconnected world;
- (b) the measures taken to ensure that the scheme's implementation is gender-sensitive and addresses the unique needs of female students;
- (c) the scheme's emphasis on vocational training and skill development to align with the needs of rapidly changing job market; and
- (d) the scheme's assessment and evaluation frameworks to prioritize and measure skills like creativity, problem-solving, and emotional intelligence?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) PM SHRI scheme has a provision to emphasize experiential learning in schools, aiming to promote critical thinking and equip students with 21st century skills. This focus on experiential learning is directly aligned with the principles outlined in the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), which advocates a shift from rote memorization to a more engaging and hands-on approach to learning.

PM SHRI schools aim to organize various activities that allow students to apply concepts in real-life situations. Students and teachers use a variety of teaching-learning materials (TLM) which are available in multiple languages, including mother tongue, home, and local languages. The emphasis is on promoting experiential learning through approaches like art-integrated education, sports-integrated education, and storytelling-based learning.

Learning Enrichment Programme (LEP) is to be organised for students from classes VI to XII in which students are provided with activity-based and hands-on learning experiences, helping students meet their learning goals. Under Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA), Science and Maths learning is to be promoted at upper primary to Senior Secondary (for classes VI to XII) to inculcate scientific temper, evidence-based thinking, creativity and innovativeness.

Under the scheme, a provision is made to establish Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) in all secondary and senior secondary PM SHRI schools to foster creativity and innovation, offering students hands-on learning through projects and experiments. These labs nurture essential skills like design thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and leadership, preparing students for future challenges. By focusing on experiential learning and critical thinking in its

educational approach, the PM SHRI scheme prepares students to thrive in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

(b) PM SHRI scheme intends to incorporate several measures to ensure gender sensitivity and address the unique needs of female students. PM SHRI schools have an objective to provide safe and appropriate infrastructure, including separate, functional toilets for girls. PM SHRI Schools also focus on creating clean and welcoming premises, with facilities like clean drinking water and handwashing stations to make the environment more supportive for female students.

Under the PM SHRI scheme, holistic support for girl students is to be prioritized. Self-defence training is to be offered to girl students from classes 6 to 12, empowering them to feel confident and secure. To ensure menstrual hygiene, sanitary pad vending machines and incinerators are to be installed in schools, and sanitary pads are also to be provided. Additionally, the Adolescent Girls Programme is to be implemented in many States/UTs, addressing critical areas like nutrition, reproductive health, and life skills development.

Funds under the PM SHRI scheme are allocated to ensure safety and security measures for students. This includes installing CCTV cameras, orienting students and teachers about safety and security concerns, organising awareness campaigns, etc. PM SHRI schools also receive funds under Child Tracking, which is helpful in tracking the enrollment and attendance of female students. This helps in reducing dropout rates among girls and ensures that they continue their education without disruption.

(c) Vocational training and skill development are key components of the PM SHRI scheme, aimed at equipping students with practical skills to meet the demands of India's evolving job market. To achieve this, vocational subjects are to be introduced in all secondary and senior secondary schools, ensuring students gain the knowledge and competencies required for real-world applications.

The focus is on providing technical and vocation-specific knowledge to students, including skills in handicrafts, mechanical operations, arts, music, languages, and advanced fields like artificial intelligence and robotics. PM SHRI schools are also to be supported to align vocational training with the local job market through skills gap analysis and mapping of opportunities. This helps students prepare for vocations suited to their communities, increasing their chances of local employment after Grade 12.

PM SHRI scheme has a provision to support infrastructure development, such as the construction of vocational training labs proposed by the state/UT/KVS/NVS, along with funds to procure tools and equipment, raw materials, training for vocational trainers and resource persons, awareness programmes to counsel students, providing hands-on training to students and organising linkages with sector skill councils to ensure the effective implementation of vocational education.

PM SHRI Schools intend to facilitate opportunities for students to undertake internships and short-term jobs with local industries, retailers, artisans, and informal enterprises during vacations. These internships provide students with valuable exposure to the world of work and help bridge the gap between education and industry demands.

In addition to local opportunities, vocational education under PM SHRI scheme aims to focus on futuristic and state-of-the-art technologies. Students are to be introduced to fields such as IT, artificial intelligence, augmented and virtual reality, cybersecurity, data science, robotics, etc. These interventions equip students with the skills needed for emerging and high-demand industries.

(d) The PM SHRI scheme aims to adopt a comprehensive approach to assessment and evaluation, focusing on competency-based assessments, the use of a Holistic Progress Card (HPC), and the implementation of the School Quality Assessment Framework to ensure quality education.

Competency-based assessment is a key feature in all PM SHRI schools. Teachers are required to use multiple methods, such as group work, project work, in-class activities, quizzes, and observation-based assessments, especially for early grades. Continuous formative assessments are to be conducted throughout the year to evaluate students' performance, moving beyond traditional pen-and-paper formats. Self-assessment and peer-assessment techniques are to be integrated into the process to encourage collaboration and reflection. Competencies and learning outcomes serve as checkpoints for monitoring progress and ensuring students achieve developmental milestones across all grades.

The Holistic Progress Card is another important aspect of the scheme. Designed by NCERT and SCERTs, the HPC provides a 360-degree, multidimensional report that captures a student's progress in cognitive, socio-emotional, psychomotor, and affective domains. It also reflects achievements in life skills such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, problem-solving, courage, and decision-making. The HPC is a collaborative effort, involving feedback from teachers, peers, parents, and students themselves. It highlights both the strengths and areas of improvement for each learner, helping them make informed choices and supporting their overall development. Sports, arts, and other extracurricular activities are integrated into the assessment process to ensure a balanced focus on all aspects of growth.

The School Quality Assessment Framework further aims to ensure consistent monitoring of educational standards across PM SHRI schools. This framework requires schools to evaluate students based on their competencies throughout the year, using diverse assessment methods at all levels—foundational, preparatory, middle, and secondary. These assessments help identify strengths and areas requiring improvement within schools, guiding districts and states to take targeted actions to enhance educational outcomes.

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