

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1660
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010
DROP OUT RATE AMONG SCs/STs STUDENTS
Shantha J.

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the drop-out rates in respect of SCs/STs students are increasing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D.PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b): As per data available with the Ministry, the drop out rate of SC students in primary (classes I-V), Upper Primary (classes I-VIII) and Secondary (classes I-X) stages, has decreased from 41.47%, 59.91% and 71.92% in 2002-03 to 31.85%, 52.62% and 68.13% respectively in 2007-08. Similarly, dropout rate of ST students in primary (classes I-V), Upper Primary(classes I-VIII) and Secondary (classes I-X) stages has decreased from 51.37%, 68.67% and 80.29% in 2002-03 to 32.23%, 63.36% and 76.49% respectively in 2007-08.

(c): A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for reducing drop out rates. These include, inter-alia, strengthening of schools, improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, provision of annual school grants, regular training of teachers and regular academic support of teachers etc. In addition, interventions under SSA aim at building community support, special provisions to promote education of girls through Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) and National Programme for Education of Girls for Elementary Level (NPEGEL) as well as children with special needs. The Mid-day-Meal programme also complements the strategy to reduce dropout rates.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan(RMSA) envisages inter-alia, opening of new schools in SC/ST/Minority concentration areas including upgradation of Ashram Schools to secondary schools, special focus on SC/ST/Minority during micro planning, etc. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Incentive to girls for Secondary Education" a sum of Rs. 3000/- is deposited in the name of all eligible girls belonging to SC/ST, who enroll in class IX in Government, Government aided or local bodies schools. Under the scheme of Girls' Hostel 50 percent seats are meant for girls belonging to SC/ST/OBC/minorities.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years. The Act came into force from 01-04-2010. Section 4 of the Act provides that unenrolled and drop out children shall be admitted in age appropriate class and provided Special Training. They shall have the right to free education till completion of elementary education even after fourteen years.