

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4056
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2010
NSSO REPORT ON DROP OUT
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that as per the report of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), 21% children drop the schools due to poverty;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government is also aware that the national gross average attendance at primary and middle school levels is only 80%;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)to(e): As per NSSO Report No. 532: Education in India: Participation and Expenditure, 2007-08, about 21 per cent children discontinued/ drop-out the school due to financial constraints. Gross Attendance Ratios in Classes I-V and VI-VIII are 104 per cent and 84 per cent respectively. State-wise details of Gross Attendance Ratios in classes I-V & VI-VIII are given in Annexure-I.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is implemented in partnership with the States/UTs in which, inter alia, one of the goals specifies retention of all children up to the elementary level. A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under the SSA for reducing drop-out rates. These include, inter alia, strengthening of schools and improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, provision of annual school grants and regular training of teachers. In addition, interventions under SSA aim at building community support, flexible schooling for the hardest to reach children, residential hostel buildings in remote tribal areas, special provision for SC and ST children including free text-books and remedial teaching. The Mid-day-Meal programme also complements the strategy to reduce dropouts.

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 1st April, 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.