

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2141
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011
PHALGUNA SAKA DROP OUT FROM SCHOOLS
Singh Shri Jitender

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

- (a) Whether substantial number of students from rural backward drop out before completing twelfth standard;
- (b) If so, the details thereof, gender-wise in each State/UT at present;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the reasons for this drop out;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken/proposed to taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The drop-out of rural backward students is not maintained. However, as per National Sample Survey Report, "Education in India: 2007-08, Participation and Expenditure", percentage of ever enrolled persons (aged 5-29 years) in Higher Secondary, who are currently not attending and have either achieved desired level or not completed Higher Secondary level are 32.8, 28.7 and 28.4 for rural ST, SC and OBC categories respectively.

(c) & (d) The Government has assessed the reasons for drop out or discontinuation and is published in National Sample Survey Report, "Education in India: 2007-08, Participation and Expenditure". As per the Report, during 2007-08 major reasons for drop-out or discontinuance in rural area are as follows:

- i) Financial constraints - 21.2%.
- ii) Child not interested in studies - 20.7%
- iii) Unable to cope up or failure in studies. - 11.3%
- iv) Parent not interested in studies - 9.7%
- v) Completed desired level/class - 7.9%

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009, which became operative with effect from 1st April 2010, provides that every child in the 6 to 14 age-group shall have a right to free and compulsory education till completion of elementary education. Framework of Implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, a flagship programme for universalization of elementary education, has been revised to correspond with the provisions of the RTE Act 2009 in terms of provisioning for additional teachers, classrooms and facilities in schools, as well as quality interventions.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has adopted an equity-based approach that focuses on the needs of educationally backward areas and disadvantaged social groups. Concern for education of socially disadvantaged groups is interwoven in SSA. Educational incentives to offset the cost of education are provided to SC, ST children and girls. SSA facilitates context specific interventions for promoting educational opportunities to such groups.

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme provides for setting up of residential upper primary schools for girls from SC, ST, OBC and Muslim communities. The scheme provides for a minimum reservation of 75% seats for girls from SC/ST/OBC and minorities communities.

Mid Day Meal Scheme aims at enhancing enrolment, retention & attendance and simultaneously improving nutritional levels among children belonging to disadvantaged sections.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, which has been launched for universal access to secondary education, aims at removing gender and socio-economic barriers and achieving universal retention by 2020.