

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1316  
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012  
SPECIAL FOCUS DISTRICTS  
Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) the number of districts in the country having low retention rate in schools below 60%, State-wise;
- (b) the criteria in determining the eligibility for Special Focus Districts (SFDs);
- (c) the number of SFDs that have been identified in the country, State-wise, location-wise; and
- (d) the total amount of funds released/utilized under this scheme during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

**Answer**

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

(a): The Department of School Education and Literacy has identified 126 districts with retention rate below 60% for the year 2011-12 under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

(b) to (d): Special Focus Districts (SFDs) are identified on the basis of (a) Programme category gaps, viz. (i) districts with a classroom gap exceeding 3000 classrooms, (ii) districts with more than 20,000 out-of-school children, (iii) gender gap in enrollment exceeding 10% at primary and 20% at upper primary level, and (iv) retention rate lower than 60%, and (b) Social category gaps, viz., districts with more than 25% Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe population, 20% Muslim minority population, as well as districts affected by Left Wing Extremism and Border Area Districts. Several districts have been classified as SFDs under one or more of the above categories. The number of SFDs changes from year to year. The state wise number of SFDs for the year 2011-12 is annexed. The funds – Central share, State share and 13th Finance Commission - are released to the SSA State Implementation Societies (SISs). SISs release the funds to the districts as per need and expenditure. The releases and utilization by the SFDs is maintained at state level and not centrally.