

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:130

ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009

INCREASE IN DROP OUT RATE IN SCHOOL

Singh Shri Dushyant;Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

- (a) whether there is an increase in the drop out rate at primary and secondary school levels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, gender-wise, class-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether the rate of school drop outs of girls in rural areas is more than that of the urban areas in the country; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check such drop outs?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 130 FOR ANSWER ON 13.07.2009 ASKED BY SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH AND SHRI N. CHALUVARAYA SWAMY REGARDING 'INCREASE IN DROP OUT RATE IN SCHOOL'

(a), (b), & (c): Gender-wise, stage-wise and State-wise drop out rates for the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are at Annexure I, II & III respectively. Annual class-wise enrolment figures are not collected for urban and rural, areas separately, and therefore drop out rates for these areas cannot be calculated separately. Details as given in the Annexures reveal that there is a general downward trend in drop out rates during the above period across each stage (primary,, upper primary and secondary) of education.

(d) A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for universal elementary education. This includes, inter alia, improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, provision of annual school grants, teacher grants, regular training and academic support of teachers. In addition, interventions under SSA aim at harnessing community support, providing flexible schooling for the hardest to reach children, inclusion of children with special needs, and special provisions to promote education of girls through Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalas (KGBV) and National Programme for Education of Girls for Elementary Level (NPEGEL). The Mid-day-Meal programme also complements the strategy to reduce dropout rates.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) has been launched to universalize access to secondary education and to improve its quality. The scheme envisages enhancing enrolment at secondary stage by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation by improving quality of education imparted at secondary level through making secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, and through removal of gender, socio-economic and disability barriers. The programme has special focus on girls and envisages several girl-specific measures including focus on increasing number of women teachers in schools and provision of separate toilet for girls.

The Girls' Hostel scheme envisages setting up of one 100-bedded girls' hostel in each educationally backward block to cater to girls of secondary and higher secondary schools.