

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1063

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

DECREASE IN DROP-OUT RATE OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

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

- (a) whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the number of school drop-out children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State wise;
- (c) whether the survey has revealed that there has been reduction in the drop-out rate of school children in the age group of 6 to 13;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the survey also reveals that the percentage of drop-out children among the Muslims and SCs/STs continues to be much higher than the national average;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;and
- (g) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard and the achievements made so far as a result thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (g): Ministry of Human Resource Development collects the information on various educational indicators from the States/UTs annually through Selected Educational Statistics (SES). SES 2006- 07 reveals decline in drop-out rate since 2001-02, including that of SCs/STs at primary and elementary level. At Primary level the drop-out has fallen by 13.6 percentage points from 2001 to 2006, compared to a decline of only 2.3 percentage points between the year 1990 to 2000. At Elementary level the drop-out rate has declined from 54.60 in 2001-02 to 45.90 in 2006-07. Drop-out rate in respect of Minority Communities is not available separately. The drop-out rate of SC and ST children at elementary level is as follows:

Year Primary (I-V) Elementary (I-VIII)

Overall SC ST Overall SC ST

2001-02 39.00 45.20 52.30 54.60 60.70 69.50

2006-07 25.60 35.91 33.09 45.90 53.05 62.54

The State wise drop-out rates as per SES 2006-07 are 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 upto the elementary level. A multipronged 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, 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 provisions for SC and ST children including free text-books and remedial teaching. The Mid-Day Meal programme also complements the strategy to reduce drop-outs.