

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1922  
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012  
DROPOUT RATE AMONG SC ST  
Dhanaplan Shri K. P.

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

- (a) the dropout rate of school students belonging to SCs/STs in the primary and secondary stages during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) the reasons for the high dropout of students belonging to these communities; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to improve this position?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Dr. SHASHI THAROOR)

- (a): State-wise details of the dropout rate of SC/ST students for the Classes I-V and Classes I-X during 2008-09, 2009-10(Provisional) and 2010-11(Provisional) are at the Annexure.
- (b): The incidence of high dropout rate may be attributed to inadequate school infrastructure and facilities, adverse pupil teacher ratio, children engaged in household or other kinds of work, seasonal migration and other socio economic factors.
- (c): The Government has been making consistent progress in meeting the goals of Universal Elementary Education through implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Programme. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009, which became operational 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. The SSA Framework of Implementation has been revised to correspond with the provisions of the RTE Act 2009 and the SSA programme is being implemented in accordance with the norms and standards of the RTE Act to enhance enrolment and retention of children.

A multi-pronged approach has been adopted for reducing dropout rates. This includes inter-alia strengthening of school infrastructure and facilities, residential hostel buildings for children in habitations not covered by regular schools, provisioning for additional teachers, regular training of teachers, provision for text books and uniforms to children. SSA facilitates context-specific interventions for girls, SC, ST and Muslim community. The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme provides for setting up of residential upper primary schools for girls from SC, ST, OBC and Muslim communities. The Mid Day Meal Scheme is also being implemented with a view to enhance enrolment and retention of children in school. Further, the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan which has been launched for universal access to secondary education, aims at removing gender and socio-economic disparities in access to education. There is a provision for upgradation of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas to secondary schools to enable girls to continue their education under RMSA. Enrolment drive in areas having concentration of SC and ST, special coaching/remedial teaching and sensitization programmes are some of the other measures undertaken under RMSA to reduce dropout rate.