

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:133

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2015

School Dropouts

Chavan Shri Harishchandra Deoram;Jadhav Shri Prataprao Ganpatrao;Meena Shri Harish Chandra;Sampath Shri Anirudhan

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the majority of the students in rural areas and students belonging to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes in the country discontinue their studies at an early level in schools and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any survey with regard to increasing dropout rates of students at primary, secondary and higher secondary level and if so, the details of the boys and girls dropouts separately during the last three years, State/UT-wise; and
- (c) the efforts taken by the Government to retain/encourage the students to complete their studies at higher level?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) : As per Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE), the annual average dropout rate of students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) at elementary level during 2013-14 is 5.7% and 8.3%, respectively as against the rate of 4.17% for all students at that level.

(b): The Government of India has not conducted any such survey, however, the National University of Educational and Planning and Administration (NUEPA) annually collects information in the form of Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) on various educational indicators including information on annual average dropout rates. The State-wise details on annual average dropout rates of boys and girls at Primary, Secondary, Higher Secondary level are given at Annexure.

(c): The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) assists States in universalization of elementary education and the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) in universal access to secondary education.

RMSA and SSA programmes provide a number of incentives to encourage enrolment and retention and to reduce dropout of children in schools. These include enhancing access to primary, upper primary and secondary schools, strengthening school infrastructure like school building, additional classrooms, toilets, drinking water facilities etc., improving the teachers pupil ratio as well as strategies for gender positive textbooks, gender sensitization of teachers and educational administrators. In addition, 3602 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas or residential schools for girls belonging predominantly to the SC, ST, OBC and minorities at upper primary level in educationally backward blocks of the country have been set up. The mid-day meal programme is also implemented in elementary schools to help retain children in schools.

The identification of Special Focus Districts (SFDs) is an important step in the direction of providing universal and quality education to SCs & STs students at the elementary level. These districts are identified based on indicators like concentration of out of school children, high gender gap, low retention rate and infrastructure gap as well as concentration of SC/ST/Minority population. During 2015-16, 49% of the funds under SSA were targeted to SFDs.
