

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:858

ANSWERED ON:21.11.2016

Children Out of School

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of children in the country especially Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minority communities are not attending schools and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and the response of the Government thereon;
- (b) whether the Government has reviewed the impact of Right To Education Act, 2009 and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the number of out of school children has come down in some States and in some States it has increased and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that the number of street children is increasing across the country and if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for educating/upliftment of such children including providing education; and
- (e) whether the NCPDR has achieved 100% success in identifying street children and sending/extending school education to them and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a): As per an independent survey commissioned by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) in 2014, the number of out of school children (OoSC) in the age group of 6 to 13 years was estimated to be 60.64 lakh. State-wise details of children from Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Minority communities among the children who are out of school are at Annexure-I.

Under SSA, districts with high concentration of population of SCs, STs and Muslims have been identified as Special Focus Districts (SFDs). The criteria for identifying the SFDs in case of SCs and STs is population of 25% and above, while for Muslims, it is 20% and above. SFDs also include 121 districts identified by Ministry of Minority Affairs to monitor implementation of SSA as part of Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme. In 2016-17, the allocation to SFDs under SSA accounts for 48% of the total outlay under SSA.

Since the inception of SSA upto 31.03.2016, 95221 primary schools, 54723 upper primary schools and 881856 additional classrooms have been constructed in SFDs. Besides, 330 KGBVs, which are upper primary residential schools for girls, have been sanctioned in the SC concentrated SFDs, out of which 329 are operational. Similarly, 508 KGBVs have been sanctioned in ST concentrated SFDs and 507 are operational. In Muslim concentrated SFDs, 544 KGBVs have been sanctioned and all are operational. In ST concentrated SFDs, 106 residential schools and 190 hostels have also been sanctioned.

(b): The Central Government reviews and monitors implementation/impact of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 periodically with the States and Union Territories at different fora. An independent concurrent financial review is also undertaken to cover all States within two years. Educational data on outcomes are collected through Unified District Information System of Education (UDISE) every year. The status of these evaluations and monitoring is placed in the public domain on the Ministry's website. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is the designated scheme to meet the objective of RTE Act, 2009. The combined RTE-SSA programme is reviewed twice every year by a Joint Review Mission comprising independent experts and members of external funding agencies, covering all States by rotation.

(c): The estimates on OoSC reported by the three independent surveys commissioned by MHRD in 2005, 2009 and 2014 indicate that there has been a substantial reduction in the number of OoSC in the country. The number of OoSC in 6-13 age group was 134.56 lakh in 2005 which reduced to 81.50 lakh in 2009. Further, the number of out of school children reduced to 60.64 lakh in 2014. The total reduction in the number out of school children is 73.96 lakh. The reduction is across the States except six States and UTs. These are Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Delhi, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala and Odisha. The increase in the number of out of school children is mainly because of a renewed focus on RTE implementation and identification of out of school children. States like Karnataka, Jharkhand and Odisha have

initiated child tracking system and a comprehensive identification process of all out of school children in their states. State wise detail of reduction in the number of out of school children and increase in six states is given at Annexure-II.

(d): The number of street children is not maintained by MHRD. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, which became operative with effect from 1st April, 2010, mandates that all children in the age group of 6-14 years shall be in schools for completing elementary education. Section 4 of the RTE Act provides for special training for age appropriate admission of out of school children. Those children who have missed out certain academic years either for being never enrolled to school or having dropped out of school, have a right to Special Training in residential and non residential mode, subsequently to be mainstreamed in formal schools in age appropriate class. These out of school children include those who are never enrolled, those who drop out, children of migrants, street and working children, children without adult protection etc. Strategies such as providing residential schools and hostels, transport and escort facility, seasonal hostels, special training centres at worksite, migration cards, back to school camps etc. are being implemented and have proved to be successful for the care of these children.

(e): No, Madam. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has reported that it does not identify street children for extending school education.
