

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1156
ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025

Dropout rate among girls and marginalised groups

1156 Smt. Rajani Ashokrao Patil:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether dropout rates at primary and secondary school levels have increased post-pandemic, especially among girls and marginalised groups;
- (b) if so, the enrolment and dropout in Government schools from 2021-2024, State-wise details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry has conducted or supported any learning outcome surveys to assess post-COVID academic loss;
- (d) the details of remedial programmes or bridge courses introduced at the school level; and
- (e) what steps have been taken to ensure retention and academic support in rural and backward districts?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) and (b): The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education has developed the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) system to record data on indicators of school education provided by all the States and Union Territories. As per UDISE+, State/UT-wise dropout rate among girls and marginalised groups, such as Schedule Castes (SC) and Schedule Tribes (ST) for primary and secondary schools, as also enrolment in government schools from 2021-22, 2022-23 & 2023-24, is available at https://www.education.gov.in/en/parl_ques.

Further, based on the recommendation of National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), w.e.f., 2022-23 UDISE+ has been revitalized, to capture individual student wise data and created student's registry. There has been a complete change in the manner of collection of data from 2022-23 onwards from gross enrolment data to individual student data. It makes comparison of data from previous years statistically different/inchoate.

(c) and (d): The PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024, conducted in December 2024 by the National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (NCERT), under the Ministry of Education, assessed baseline competency development in students of Grades 3, 6, and 9 as per the National Education Policy 2020. Over 21.15 lakh students and 2.70 lakh teachers from more than 74,000 schools across 781 districts participated. National, State, and District-level report cards are available at <https://dashboard.parakh.ncert.gov.in/en>.

Further, National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) effectively mitigates dropout challenges by operating through the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode. However, during COVID and post-COVID periods, NIOS took several steps and used different platforms to support continuous learning for its learners. The time for live interactive lectures on SWAYAM Prabha DTH channels was scheduled for 6 hours every day, including Saturdays and Sundays. At present, NIOS has undertaken various e-learning initiatives and utilized multiple online platforms to ensure access to quality digital

education for students in rural areas. These include live video programs broadcast on PM e-Vidya channels 17, 18, 19, and 20; content support for learners through the DIKSHA platform; Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on the SWAYAM platform; and Web Radio (Mukta Vidya Vani). In addition, NIOS engages with communities through its Community Radio station (91.2 MHz), delivering education-focused programs to further enhance outreach and learning opportunities. Furthermore, the e-library of NIOS DEEP (Digital Education and e-Resource Platform), a virtual platform provides for e-content learners, teachers and others.

(e): Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. Central Government assists States and UTs through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha and hot cooked meal provided to the students of Balvatika upto class 8 under Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Yojna. Financial assistance/grant is also provided to the States and UTs for various activities to reduce dropout and increase enrolment in Government schools, which includes opening/strengthening of new schools up to senior secondary level, strengthening school infrastructure, setting up and up gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) upto class 12, setting up of residential schools/hostels namely Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas, hostels under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), transport allowances, undertaking enrolment drives, seasonal hostels/residential camps, provision of vocational education and ICT facilities in schools, providing free text books and free uniform, transport/escort facility, etc. Financial assistance/grant is also provided for aids and appliances for children with special needs.
