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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3055
ANSWERED ON 20/08/2025

Decline in school enrollment

3055 **Smt. Renuka Chowdhury:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reason behind the drop in enrollment at the primary and upper-primary levels in Government and Government-aided schools during 2024-25;

(b) the number of States/UTs that have reported a fall in enrollment, along with the estimated number of students affected;

(c) whether the fall in enrolment has affected the coverage under the PM-POSHAN scheme, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has issued any guidelines or directions to States/UTs to investigate the cause of the enrolment drop and improve the quality and reach of midday meals; and

(e) the measures being taken by Government to retain students in Government schools?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Government. The Department of School Education and Literacy is implementing Samagra Shiksha, an integrated scheme for school education in 2018-19 covering the entire gamut from pre-school to class XII. The scheme has also been aligned with the recommendations of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which should take care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.

The Department of School Education and Literacy developed a Management Information System, UDISE starting from the reference year 2018-2019. To further revolutionize the school data collection mechanism and to monitor learning outcome and track dropped–out students, starting from 2022-2023, UDISE+ was revitalized to collect individual student–wise data and create students' registry. There has been a complete change in the manner of collection of data from 2022-23 onwards from the Gross Enrolment Data to Individual student data. This makes comparison of data from previous years statistically different/inchoate. State/UT wise enrollment for the years 2022-23 and 2023-24 for primary and upper primary level is at Annexure.

One of the focus areas of the Samagra Shiksha scheme is to reduce the dropout rate and the number of Out of School Children (OoSC). The scheme includes the provision of opening and strengthening of new schools up to senior secondary level; construction of school buildings and additional classrooms; setting up, up-gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas; setting up of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas; free uniforms, free text books, transport allowance and undertaking enrolment & retention drives.

In addition, support is provided through special training for age-appropriate admission of Out of School Children and for the training of residential as well as non-residential older children. The provision of seasonal hostels or residential camps, special training centres at worksites, transport/ escort facility are also available for bringing Out of School Children to the formal schooling structure.

Financial assistance upto ₹ 2000 per annum is being provided for Out of School Children of age group of 16-19 years, belonging to socio economically disadvantaged groups, for completing their education through NIOS/SIOS, for accessing course materials and certification.

Under the student-oriented component for the children with special needs of the scheme, financial assistance is provided for identification and assessment of children with special needs, aids and appliances, braille kits and books, appropriate teaching learning material and stipend to girl students with disability etc.

Bridge Course Modules have been developed by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for bridging the learning gaps of Out of School Children studying in Special Training Centers (STC) under the provision of RTE Act, 2009.

Under National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme, scholarship is awarded to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue the study at secondary stage.

This Department has also developed an online module for compiling the data of Out of School Children (OoSC) identified by each State/UT and their mapping with Special Training Centres (STC) on the PRABANDH Portal. The concerned State/UT validates the child wise information of the identified OoSC and STC uploaded by the concerned Block Resource Centre of the State for monitoring the progress of mainstreaming of OoSC.

In the review meetings, national workshops and directives etc., all States/UTs have been directed to reduce the number of Out of School Children (OoSC). Through communication at level of Minister, States/UTs have also been requested to participate in "Bringing Children Back to School" campaign with the full and active engagement of School Management Committees and community involvement through Panchayati Raj Institutions.

PM POSHAN Scheme, being Centrally Sponsored Scheme, is implemented in partnership with States/ UTs and the overall responsibility for smooth functioning of the scheme lies with the State Governments and UT Administrations. The Scheme is providing one hot cooked and nutritious meal to all children studying in Balvatika (just before class-I) and classes I to VIII of Government and Government-aided schools across the country. The meals are provided to all students upto class VIII, present in the schools.

The Government of India has issued detailed guidelines on quality, safety and hygiene to ensure serving of good quality nutritious meal under the Scheme. The detailed guidelines on improving the implementation of the scheme have also been issued to all the States/UTs. All the States/ UTs have been advised to adhere to these Guidelines. These guidelines are available on official website https://pmposhan.education.gov.in .

****

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (E) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3055 FOR REPLY ON 20.08.2025 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY REGARDING DECLINE IN SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

ENROLLMENT AT PRIMARY AND UPPER PRIMARY LEVEL (Year 2022-23)

India/ State /UT	Total (Pre-primary to 12)	Government		Government aided	
		Primary	Upper Primary	Primary	Upper Primary
India	251791722	68636119	36505149	5180381	7190458
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	75107	15493	12311	501	438
Andhra Pradesh	8622192	1855460	1316006	55698	42824
Arunachal Pradesh	325018	82443	54303	10825	5869
Assam	7116900	2646345	1281644	2310	180848
Bihar	24543698	10732498	5453640	38806	45142
Chandigarh	270310	56631	41368	2131	1628
Chhattisgarh	5764210	1813872	1120419	25983	17855
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	139967	41538	25857	1226	2338
Delhi	4628514	942136	745392	39773	46395
Goa	309594	23808	7888	73572	58850
Gujarat	11499580	3353219	1907808	52026	90695
Haryana	5727319	1068447	644357	658	545
Himachal Pradesh	1419388	306283	214184	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir	2614335	546863	306957	85	38
Jharkhand	7209261	2560627	1385622	129523	88348
Karnataka	12398654	2574437	1522605	373423	391056
Kerala	6185360	617216	403808	974569	740862
Ladakh	58841	9239	5278	403	124
Lakshadweep	12587	5203	2870	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	15241680	4115311	2529566	25807	17094
Maharashtra	21150066	3935820	1186235	2237522	2994866
Manipur	655620	115330	37500	16913	6345
Meghalaya	1074966	238842	101975	126627	92759
Mizoram	293203	63190	32063	1691	5357
Nagaland	415655	60970	33754	0	0
Odisha	7649925	2741180	1666153	28297	128098
Puducherry	251481	30312	21908	7709	6651
Punjab	5915223	1053539	667759	53099	47414
Rajasthan	17707162	4196920	2460793	0	0
Sikkim	128204	21048	19497	926	1168
Tamil Nadu	12880110	1900062	1410758	639269	644375
Telangana	7027086	1228528	907140	37473	23340
Tripura	694539	228087	138868	7381	6072
Uttar Pradesh	41672205	12589309	4766568	201081	1446973
Uttarakhand	2357204	401118	228368	7181	49062
West Bengal	17756558	6464795	3843927	7893	7029

Source: UDISE+ 2022-23

ENROLLMENT AT PRIMARY AND UPPER PRIMARY LEVEL (Year 2023-24)

India/ State /UT	Total (Pre-primary to 12)	Government		Government aided	
		Primary	Upper Primary	Primary	Upper Primary
India	248045828	62218741	34927099	5011319	6968156
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	72119	14548	11962	487	420
Andhra Pradesh	8741885	1644372	1234809	44635	38031
Arunachal Pradesh	323717	72542	49595	10728	6139
Assam	6922533	2484109	1267007	2130	87975
Bihar	21348149	9249158	4735006	32075	38475
Chandigarh	265706	47499	40998	2034	1561
Chhattisgarh	5776548	1729178	1101338	25198	18577
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	141282	39476	24842	1128	2248
Delhi	4506578	850840	724504	38034	45292
Goa	304735	23041	8068	71823	59371
Gujarat	11496709	2794774	1896248	44494	91020
Haryana	5599742	900031	645767	354	356
Himachal Pradesh	1426412	287348	206444	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir	2629949	542483	298691	88	38
Jharkhand	7143255	2463773	1351567	127220	84599
Karnataka	11926303	2372955	1453865	355662	374633
Kerala	6281704	571370	392366	920416	731885
Ladakh	56642	8771	5030	515	139
Lakshadweep	12591	5190	2778	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	15361543	3955817	2441826	23739	16787
Maharashtra	21375970	3818664	1127715	2241611	2980488
Manipur	647434	111197	35202	15552	5536
Meghalaya	1052884	237510	92742	128954	87451
Mizoram	293763	61283	29689	1428	5072
Nagaland	412975	55957	30496	0	0
Odisha	7756910	2642108	1686491	27448	127989
Puducherry	244828	27169	20180	7128	6525
Punjab	5988681	1040618	626490	48927	46534
Rajasthan	16786065	3632560	2304731	0	0
Sikkim	121395	19596	17682	59	322
Tamil Nadu	12993050	1734417	1382345	598047	644209
Telangana	7293644	1054294	873878	33565	21757
Tripura	689408	218520	136939	7256	6350
Uttar Pradesh	41662794	10645633	4572764	184880	1383084
Uttarakhand	2372400	372786	217856	7030	47805
West Bengal	18015525	6489154	3879188	8674	7488

Source: UDISE+ 2023-24