

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1934
ANSWERED ON 17/12/2025**

Dropout of school children in rural areas

1934 Shri I.S. Inbadurai:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the continuing challenges related to dropout rates among children in rural areas and villages across various States during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, along with the key factors contributing to such dropouts;
- (c) whether Government has undertaken specific measures and allocated funds during the last three years and the current year to address these concerns, particularly focusing on improving retention in rural schools; and
- (d) if so, the details of these interventions, including number of children who dropped out during this period and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d) The key reasons for drop out as identified by States/UTs include migration, socio economic condition of families, domestic responsibilities on children, lack of interest of children, poor health of children, etc.

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 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.

Samagra Shiksha supports all States and UTs for different interventions like composite school grant to every school for providing a conducive learning environment, grants for science labs, libraries, sports and physical activities, support for Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan, ICT and digital initiatives, School Leadership development programme, remedial teaching for academically weaker students, etc.

In order to reduce dropout 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, undertaking enrolment & retention drives, construction of hostels under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan for unsaturated ST population, reimbursement under RTE Act, various qualitative components, strengthening of teacher education and strengthening of DIETs/BRCs/CRCs, provision of ICT.

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.

Under Samagra Shiksha scheme, provision has been made also for giving preference to Special Focus Districts (SFDs), Educationally Backward Blocks (EEBs), LWE (Left Wing Extremism) affected districts, and aspirational districts while planning interventions.

Government has also taken initiatives such as Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) and implementation of Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) ID to monitor the drop out and other education indicators. VSK has been developed with strategies designed to enhance the effectiveness of monitoring of educational initiatives and their eventual outcomes. A key feature of VSK is tracking of dropout students, monitoring of students migrating from one school to the other, progress of learning

outcomes and real-time monitoring of various interventions, aimed at improving access, students' academic performance and enhancing teachers' accountability in schools. APAAR, as part of the 'One Nation, One Student ID' programme, is a 12-digit lifelong student ID that is linked to Aadhar.

The details of Central Share allocated under Samagra Shiksha scheme from year 2022-23 to 2025-26 is as under :

(Rs. In Crore)

Scheme Name	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Samagra Shiksha	44493.94	45647.55	47475.67	46744.23

Source : PRABANDH portals.

PM POSHAN Scheme is also implemented in partnership with States/ UTs to arrest the drop out of the children. 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 year wise Central Share allocated during last three years and the current year for PM-POSHAN scheme is as under :

(Rs. In Crore)

Scheme Name	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
PM-Poshan	10233	11600	12467	12500

The dropout rate during the period of last three years is as under :

Level of Education	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Primary	7.8	1.9	0.3
Upper Primary	8.1	5.2	3.5
Secondary	16.4	14.1	11.5

Source : UDISE+ Portal

As evident from the above table the dropout rate across different stages of schooling has dropped consistently over the past years.

All States/UTs are being continuously pursued to reduce the dropout rate and number of Out of School Children (OoSC). 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.

Further, Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of schools fall under the purview of the State government. The States/UTs follow different approaches for preventing dropouts which are specific to different regions or communities based on various factors responsible for dropouts. The need for various interventions required to reduce drop out and ensure retention, are worked out every year by the respective State/Union Territory and reflected in their Annual Work plan & Budget (AWP&B). Financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for implementation of AWP&B.
