

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3702  
ANSWERED ON 25/03/2026**

**Slow learning and school dropouts**

**3702 Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the prevalence of slow learning and school dropouts;
- (b) the socio-economic factors contributing to dropouts; and
- (c) the targeted interventions being implemented to improve learning outcomes, student aspirations and retention?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): As per report titled 'Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)' for the year 2023-24, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the major reasons for drop-out of school children are to supplement household income, to attend domestic chores, not interested in studies, unable to cope up with studies, child suffering with some disability, poor health, education not considered necessary by the parents, preparation of competitive examination, marriage etc.

The Government of India conducts large-scale assessments to measure learning and education outcomes across the country from time to time. The National Achievement Survey (NAS) was conducted in 2017 and again in 2021 to assess the learning levels of students at different stages of school education. The surveys provided a comprehensive overview of student performance in Grades 3, 5, 8 and 10 across language, mathematics, environmental studies, science and social science. The State-wise and District-wise report cards are available in public domain and may be accessed at <https://nas.gov.in/report-card>. The PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024 (formerly National Achievement Survey) was undertaken in December, 2024

by the National Assessment Centre, PARAKH, NCERT under the aegis of the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education to understand the baseline performance under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in development of competencies among the students at the end of the Foundational, Preparatory, and Middle stages (Grades 3, 6, and 9 respectively). Parakh Rashtriya Sarvekshan (PRS) 2024 findings highlight a significant improvement in FLN skills outcomes, reflecting the positive impact of the NBM as envisioned in NEP 2020. It reflects that the performance of children in Grade 3 in rural school is better than urban schools and government schools have outperformed the private schools at foundational stage. PRS 2024 results may be seen at <https://parakh.ncert.gov.in/prs> .

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.

One of the focus areas of the Samagra Shiksha scheme is to reduce the dropout rate. 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. Similarly, hostels are being set up for PVTG and ST students under PM-JANMAN and PM-DAJGUA respectively.

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. Textbooks and learning resources have been developed by NCERT in an age-appropriate manner in which there are emphases on experiential learning approach to optimize learning among children. Activity based, play-based, toy based, story based and game-based pedagogy have been integrated in these textbooks for improving learning outcome among children and to fulfill their aspirations.

Under Samagra Shiksha scheme, activities such as Learning Enrichment Programs (LEP) also focus on remedial teaching for students in classes 6-12, ensuring that all learners meet the required competency levels.

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.

PM POSHAN a 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.

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