

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.-2739
ANSWERED ON 12.08.2026

School dropout rates and effectiveness of retention measures under NEP 2020

2739 Shri Kapil Sibal:

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

- (a) the latest data on school dropout rates at elementary, secondary and higher secondary levels for the academic year 2025-26, including State-wise variations and trends among girls, SC, ST and minority students;
- (b) the effectiveness of measures such as vocational education, bridge courses and financial incentives introduced under NEP 2020 and Samagra Shiksha in reducing dropouts; and
- (c) whether any States have reported an increase in dropouts linked to implementation challenges of the new curriculum, examination patterns or structural changes under the National Education Policy, particularly affecting the new academic session starting in 2026?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): As per Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+), State/UT-wise and gender-wise dropout rate for the year 2025-26 at Preparatory (Class III to Class V), Middle (Class VI to Class VIII) and Secondary (Class IX to XII) stage of education are available at annexure.

Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. The Central Government assist States and UTs through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha and hot cooked meal provided from Balvatika to 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 include 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 named 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 allowance, 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.

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 student tracking to prevent dropouts, 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.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2739 ANSWERED ON 12/08/2026 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI KAPIL SIBAL REGARDING 'SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES AND EFFECTIVENESS OF RETENTION MEASURES UNDER NEP 2020'

State/UT-wise and gender-wise dropout rate for the year 2025-26 at Preparatory (Class III to Class V), Middle (Class VI to Class VIII) and Secondary (Class IX to XII) stage of education

India/State/UT	Dropout Rate - Overall								
	Preparatory (Class III to Class V)			Middle (Class VI to Class VIII)			Secondary (Class IX to XII)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
India	2.0	1.6	1.8	3.8	3.4	3.6	8.3	5.7	7.0
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.9	0.8	0.9	4.5	2.9	3.7
Andhra Pradesh	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.8	5.7	7.8
Arunachal Pradesh	2.7	1.7	2.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	11.2	10.2	10.7
Assam	2.8	1.6	2.2	5.3	3.4	4.3	11.4	10.7	11.0
Bihar	8.5	7.2	7.9	10.0	8.0	9.0	6.7	7.0	6.8
Chandigarh	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	1.6	3.3
Chhattisgarh	1.8	1.4	1.6	5.8	3.6	4.7	18.0	10.0	13.8
Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	1.2	1.9	15.0	7.9	11.5
Delhi	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	1.0	1.3	8.6	6.0	7.3
Goa	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.3	1.0	1.1	7.4	3.9	5.7
Gujarat	0.7	0.8	0.7	4.0	5.6	4.8	14.3	10.5	12.5
Haryana	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	5.3	2.9	4.2
Himachal Pradesh	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.4	1.3	1.3	5.7	3.7	4.8
Jammu & Kashmir	1.5	1.3	1.4	2.7	3.0	2.8	12.1	10.3	11.3
Jharkhand	2.6	2.0	2.3	3.0	1.9	2.5	3.7	2.4	3.0
Karnataka	0.3	0.2	0.2	1.3	1.0	1.2	18.1	10.6	14.3
Kerala	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	3.8	1.9	2.9
Ladakh	4.5	0.7	2.6	5.5	2.1	3.7	15.6	14.1	14.8
Lakshadweep	3.3	0.0	1.7	4.0	2.7	3.4	1.3	3.4	2.3
Madhya Pradesh	1.5	1.4	1.4	6.2	6.1	6.2	12.6	9.3	11.0
Maharashtra	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.8	5.4	6.2
Manipur	7.5	6.6	7.1	2.3	1.3	1.8	5.0	4.7	4.8
Meghalaya	6.8	4.5	5.7	8.1	5.1	6.5	7.4	3.2	5.0
Mizoram	1.0	0.5	0.7	2.7	1.4	2.1	8.3	7.3	7.8
Nagaland	3.3	2.0	2.7	4.9	3.5	4.2	12.1	9.9	11.0
Odisha	0.9	0.8	0.9	2.5	1.9	2.2	12.0	8.0	10.0
Puducherry	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	1.0	2.5
Punjab	0.8	0.8	0.8	2.0	1.5	1.8	5.7	3.9	4.8
Rajasthan	3.7	3.5	3.6	4.7	4.4	4.6	8.4	6.5	7.5
Sikkim	1.9	0.0	0.4	2.8	0.8	1.8	13.9	7.7	10.7
Tamil Nadu	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.2	2.4	4.8
Telangana	0.2	0.0	0.1	1.6	1.1	1.3	2.7	0.7	1.7
Tripura	0.6	0.3	0.5	3.7	2.7	3.2	9.7	8.3	9.0
Uttar Pradesh	2.3	1.7	2.0	6.6	6.8	6.7	7.2	5.4	6.4
Uttarakhand	1.6	1.5	1.5	3.4	2.8	3.1	6.4	4.1	5.3
West Bengal	1.8	0.9	1.4	1.8	0.4	1.1	2.5	0.5	1.5

Source: UDISE+