

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.-2763
ANSWERED ON 12.08.2026

School dropouts

2763 Shri Sant Balbir Singh:

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

- (a) the number of students who discontinued or dropped out of school during the last five years, State-wise/UT-wise, along with the major reasons identified for such dropouts;
- (b) the steps taken to bridge the digital divide between rural and urban students, particularly for children belonging to economically weaker sections;
- (c) whether Government has assessed the financial burden on families arising from private school fees, coaching, books, uniforms and other educational expenses; and
- (d) the details of schemes and measures being implemented to ensure affordable, accessible and quality education for every child?

ANSWER

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

(a): As per Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+), State/UT-wise dropout rate from the year 2021-22 to 2025-26 at primary, upper primary and secondary level of education are available at annexure.

As per report titled 'Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)' for the year 2025 released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the major reasons for the students who never attended the schools are to supplement household income, to attend domestic chores, etc.

(b): A comprehensive initiative called PM eVidya was initiated as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan on 17th May, 2020, which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education across the country including rural and urban students, particularly for children belonging to economically weaker sections. States/UTs collaborate with NCERT to utilise, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these initiatives as per their requirements. NCERT also provides regular guidance/ feedback to States/UTs on the quality of these initiatives. The PM eVidya initiative includes 200 DTH TV channels and 400 Radio channels to enable all States/UTs to provide supplementary education in various Indian languages for classes 1-12. Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) is the Nation's One Nation, One Digital platform for providing quality e-content for school education in States/UTs along with QR coded Energised Textbooks (ETBs) for all grades. As a participant in DIKSHA, States/UTs/Autonomous Bodies (ABs) have generated and contributed over 3.67 lakh content in mother tongue/local/regional languages enabling multilingualism. Details of econtent available in regional languages can be accessed at <https://diksha.gov.in/data/>. Overall, 579.41 crore learning sessions for 2.29 crore users have been completed on DIKSHA by students, teachers and other stakeholders. The stakeholders also have access to more than 836 Virtual Labs on DIKSHA that help them with simulation of real-world laboratory environment. The platform supports both online and offline access, enabling learners to download content and continue learning without internet connectivity.

To ensure quality digital education to the students including those belonging to rural and economically weaker section, Ministry of Education implements ICT and Digital initiatives under Samagra Shiksha to enhance the quality of education by integrating modern technology into teaching and learning processes. Under the scheme, funds are provided for setting up ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms in Government and Government Aided Schools having classes VI to XII, according to the requirements of the State submitted in the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B). To improve the overall quality of school education, the Ministry of Education launched a large-scale holistic program, NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement), to enhance the professional competencies of teachers and school leaders. It is implemented across States/UTs through face-to-face, online and blended training modes on the DIKSHA platform.

(c): Education is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution. Schools, other than those owned/funded by the Central Government, are under the jurisdiction of the respective State Governments. Therefore, matters relating to fees charged by private schools and related issues are regulated in terms of the Rules and Instructions of the respective State Government concerned.

However, under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, every child, of the age of six to fourteen years, has a right to free and compulsory elementary education in a neighbourhood school. Section 12(1) (c) of the RTE Act, 2009 mandates reservation in private unaided schools for children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups to the extent of at least 25% seats at the entry level and provision of free and compulsory elementary education to such children till its completion. Also, Section 13 of the RTE Act, 2009, clearly prohibits the collection of any capitation fee.

(d): The Department of School Education and Literacy is implementing Samagra Shiksha, an integrated scheme for school education since 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 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 skill education and ICT facilities in schools, providing free text books and free uniform, transport/escort facility, etc.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2763 ANSWERED ON 12/08/2026 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH REGARDING 'SCHOOL DROPOUTS'

State/UT-wise dropout rate from the year 2021-22 to 2025-26 at primary and upper primary level of education

State/UT	Primary					Upper primary				
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
India	1.5	7.8	1.9	0.3	0.3	3.0	8.1	5.2	3.5	3.6
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.4	0.0	0.8	0.3	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.4	1.1	0.9
Andhra Pradesh	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.4	0.0	1.6	0.0	1.1	3.7	0.0
Arunachal Pradesh	9.3	15.0	5.4	4.8	3.3	6.7	10.5	6.8	5.1	4.3
Assam	6.0	8.5	6.2	3.8	1.4	8.8	10.3	8.2	5.0	4.3
Bihar	0.0	10.7	8.9	2.9	2.5	4.6	15.8	25.9	9.3	9.0
Chandigarh	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.0
Chhattisgarh	0.8	5.4	1.8	0.7	1.1	4.1	6.6	5.3	3.4	4.7
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	3.1	1.6	1.9
Delhi	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.6	0.8	1.3
Goa	0.0	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.0	1.9	1.1	0.8	1.1
Gujarat	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	5.0	5.8	4.2	5.8	4.8
Haryana	0.0	1.4	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	3.6	4.7	1.7	2.1
Himachal Pradesh	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.6	2.0	0.6	0.5	1.3
Jammu & Kashmir	4.0	8.9	1.6	1.5	1.1	3.0	4.2	3.2	3.2	2.8
Jharkhand	1.8	11.5	0.9	0.0	0.1	3.9	14.5	9.0	1.7	2.5
Karnataka	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	2.7	2.1	1.2
Kerala	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.8	0.2	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.4	0.1
Ladakh	6.5	5.1	4.3	2.6	2.2	1.1	2.7	5.8	4.5	3.7
Lakshadweep	0.5	4.6	2.3	0.6	1.1	2.6	7.7	3.1	2.3	3.4
Madhya Pradesh	3.1	6.8	1.0	0.0	0.1	8.8	10.1	6.7	6.3	6.2
Maharashtra	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	5.8	0.6	0.6	0.0
Manipur	13.3	12.9	4.5	2.9	6.4	5.6	8.9	3.5	0.6	1.8
Meghalaya	9.8	13.6	7.5	4.2	3.7	10.6	16.4	12.4	7.8	6.5
Mizoram	6.4	14.8	3.5	10.8	1.7	2.7	10.5	5.9	11.6	2.1
Nagaland	5.0	9.8	4.5	2.8	3.3	4.0	9.0	5.8	4.7	4.2
Odisha	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.2	7.3	3.1	2.0	3.2	2.2
Puducherry	3.7	3.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	2.4	2.2	1.4	0.0	0.0
Punjab	1.3	3.1	0.1	2.5	0.7	8.0	5.3	2.6	2.7	1.8
Rajasthan	3.6	4.4	7.6	3.6	2.8	4.3	5.7	6.8	3.6	4.6
Sikkim	1.8	4.5	2.6	1.5	0.2	0.0	2.2	4.9	2.7	1.8
Tamil Nadu	0.0	2.3	0.0	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0
Telangana	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	3.1	5.0	0.0	0.0	1.3
Tripura	1.1	1.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	4.5	5.9	4.1	3.2	3.2
Uttar Pradesh	2.7	18.8	1.7	0.0	0.0	2.9	16.0	3.9	3.0	6.7
Uttarakhand	0.8	7.4	0.1	0.9	1.9	2.7	5.8	2.3	1.4	3.1
West Bengal	8.6	8.1	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	3.4	0.0	3.0	1.1

Source: UDISE+

State/UT-wise dropout rate from the year 2021-22 to 2025-26 at the secondary level of education

State/UT	Secondary				
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
India	12.6	16.4	14.1	11.5	9.5
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5.0	5.5	5.5	5.4	3.6
Andhra Pradesh	16.3	14.7	12.5	15.5	9.7
Arunachal Pradesh	11.7	16.9	19.3	18.3	13.0
Assam	20.3	29.5	25.1	17.5	14.3
Bihar	20.5	29.5	25.6	6.9	9.0
Chandigarh	0.0	1.1	2.9	2.0	1.3
Chhattisgarh	9.7	18.2	16.3	15.3	16.1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	9.5	18.8	18.7	12.5	12.4
Delhi	4.8	7.3	10.4	7.5	7.1
Goa	9.0	8.8	8.1	9.3	6.4
Gujarat	17.9	23.3	21.0	16.9	15.7
Haryana	5.9	15.4	13.8	6.6	5.4
Himachal Pradesh	1.5	6.7	4.9	6.2	5.6
Jammu & Kashmir	6.0	9.0	13.4	12.9	11.6
Jharkhand	9.3	25.7	15.2	3.5	6.6
Karnataka	14.7	14.9	22.1	18.3	18.1
Kerala	5.5	6.7	3.4	4.8	4.1
Ladakh	4.9	11.6	19.8	16.2	16.8
Lakshadweep	0.0	9.8	2.6	4.1	2.6
Madhya Pradesh	10.1	21.4	17.7	16.8	13.0
Maharashtra	10.7	16.0	10.1	11.5	9.0
Manipur	1.3	13.5	15.3	9.1	8.6
Meghalaya	21.7	28.9	22.0	17.4	6.7
Mizoram	11.9	24.0	14.8	17.4	9.3
Nagaland	17.5	21.5	11.6	12.1	13.3
Odisha	27.3	17.7	12.8	15.0	13.7
Puducherry	6.3	7.5	7.8	5.9	2.9
Punjab	17.2	9.7	6.0	6.2	5.6
Rajasthan	7.7	11.9	11.1	7.7	8.8
Sikkim	11.9	15.4	19.0	11.4	13.1
Tamil Nadu	4.5	10.3	7.7	8.5	6.2
Telangana	13.7	11.6	11.4	13.2	5.8
Tripura	8.3	17.9	10.4	11.3	10.4
Uttar Pradesh	9.7	14.7	8.7	7.0	8.4
Uttarakhand	5.0	8.4	7.0	4.6	6.1
West Bengal	18.0	8.5	17.8	20.0	5.5

Source: UDISE+