

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 355
ANSWERED ON 22/07/2026

School dropouts in North East

355 Shri Pramod Boro:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the dropout rates at primary, upper primary and secondary levels in Assam and North East during the last five years, the reasons identified for dropout, particularly in rural and tribal areas;
- (b) the measures being taken to improve retention of students, especially girls and economically weaker section; and;
- (c) the details of teacher training programmes conducted under centrally sponsored schemes in Assam including North East States in the last five years?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b): The data of dropout rates of Assam and North East States for last 5 years is enclosed as Annexure.

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 and improving transition rates. 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 since 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.

Also, one of the focus areas of the scheme is to reduce the number of OoSC. 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. 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.

Under Centrally Sponsored Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme, one hot cooked and nutritious meal is provided to all children studying in Balvatika (just before class-I) and classes I to VIII of Government and Government-aided schools across the country.

In order to reduce dropout and improve retention, including in Assam and the North East 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, 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 and digital interventions.

(c): Strengthening of teacher training/education programmes is supported under the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha in alignment with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, including in Assam and the North Eastern States. The interventions under Samagra Shiksha are aimed at strengthening of physical infrastructure in Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs); support to State Councils of

Educational Research and Trainings (SCERTs) so that they can effectively and efficiently carry out quality teacher education, research and develop state-specific curriculum framework, as a follow up to the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF SE); capacity building of District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) functionaries; continuous academic support to schools through BRC/CRC etc.

Financial provision is provided under this scheme as per state specific proposals for in-service training of teachers, school Heads, subject teachers, resource persons, master trainers, Education Administrators, Teachers Educators, key resource persons, induction training of newly recruited teachers including those in rural and remote areas at elementary and secondary levels through SCERTs and DIETs, as the nodal agencies.

The Department of School Education and Literacy has also launched a National Mission to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme called NISHTHA – National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha. NISHTHA is a capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training". NISHTHA online was launched using DIKSHA platform in October, 2020. NISHTHA training has been extended to secondary stage teachers in 2021-22. NISHTHA also caters to Foundational Literacy and Numeracy and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for training of master trainers.

The Government has decided to develop all functional 613 District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) into Centers of Excellence under the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha in a phased manner starting from FY 2023-24. Based on proposals submitted by States/UTs, the Government has upgraded 4 DIETs in Assam and total 14 DIETs in North Eastern states in Phase-I and 5 DIETs in Assam and total 16 DIETs in North Eastern states in Phase-II.

Further, in terms of NEP, 2020, the Government has released a Guiding Document on the National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) and Bluebook on the National Mission for Mentoring (NMM). NPST defines competencies of teachers at different stages/levels. The Bluebook on NMM contains the various modalities for mentoring of school teachers for enhancing their capacity building.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 355 FOR REPLY ON 22/07/2026 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI PRAMOD BORO REGARDING SCHOOL DROPOUTS IN NORTH EAST.

YEAR	STATE	Primary			Upper Primary			Secondary		
		Girls	Boys	Overall	Girls	Boys	Overall	Girls	Boys	Overall
2021-22	INDIA	1.35	1.55	1.45	3.31	2.74	3.02	12.25	12.96	12.61
	Arunachal Pradesh	9.24	9.26	9.25	8.44	4.82	6.69	12.25	11.2	11.74
	Assam	5.17	6.84	6.02	7.61	10.1	8.82	20.66	19.78	20.25
	Manipur	12.96	13.54	13.26	5.21	5.95	5.59	1.21	1.35	1.27
	Meghalaya	8.58	11.08	9.84	9.4	12.04	10.64	20.37	23.28	21.68
	Mizoram	5.58	7.08	6.35	1.64	3.78	2.73	10.83	13.06	11.9
	Nagaland	4.49	5.57	5.04	3.36	4.64	4	16.19	18.92	17.52
	Tripura	0.95	1.16	1.06	4.26	4.75	4.51	8.15	8.53	8.34
	Sikkim	0.5	2.9	1.8	0	0	0	9.5	14.6	11.9
2022-23	INDIA	7.8	7.8	7.8	8.3	7.9	8.1	15.4	17.3	16.4
	Arunachal Pradesh	13.6	16.3	15	11	9.9	10.5	16.1	17.7	16.9
	Assam	8	8.9	8.5	9.2	11.5	10.3	29.9	29	29.5
	Manipur	13	12.9	12.9	9.2	8.6	8.9	14.1	13	13.5
	Meghalaya	12.9	14.4	13.6	14.2	18.8	16.4	25.8	32.6	28.9
	Mizoram	14.6	15	14.8	8.9	12	10.5	22.8	25.2	24
	Nagaland	10	9.7	9.8	7.9	10.1	9	20	23.1	21.5
	Tripura	1.2	1.7	1.4	5	6.8	5.9	17.2	18.6	17.9
	Sikkim	3.5	5.5	4.5	2.1	2.3	2.2	12.1	18.9	15.4
2023-24	INDIA	1.7	2.1	1.9	5.3	5.2	5.2	12.6	15.5	14.1
	Arunachal Pradesh	5.1	5.7	5.4	6.5	7.2	6.8	18.2	20.4	19.3
	Assam	5.2	7.1	6.2	6.1	10.3	8.2	25	25.2	25.1
	Manipur	4.4	4.5	4.5	3	3.9	3.5	15	15.6	15.3
	Meghalaya	6.8	8.3	7.5	11.1	13.9	12.4	21.1	23.2	22
	Mizoram	3.3	3.7	3.5	4.9	6.7	5.9	14.4	15.2	14.8
	Nagaland	4.2	4.8	4.5	5.2	6.4	5.8	11.1	12.2	11.6
	Tripura	0.3	0.8	0.5	3.6	4.5	4.1	10.1	10.7	10.4
	Sikkim	1.7	3.3	2.6	4.0	5.9	4.9	17.2	21.0	19.0
2024-25	INDIA	0	0.8	0.3	2.9	4.1	3.5	9.6	13.3	11.5
	Arunachal Pradesh	4.5	5.2	4.8	5.3	4.9	5.1	17.7	19	18.3
	Assam	2.9	4.7	3.8	3.2	7	5	16.7	18.5	17.5
	Manipur	2.6	3.2	2.9	0.3	1	0.6	8.6	9.6	9.1
	Meghalaya	3.2	5.1	4.2	6	9.9	7.8	16.6	18.4	17.4
	Mizoram	10.7	10.8	10.8	10.3	12.8	11.6	16	18.9	17.4
	Nagaland	2.5	3.1	2.8	3.8	5.6	4.7	11.2	13	12.1
	Tripura	0	0	0	2.3	4.1	3.2	10.2	12.3	11.3
	Sikkim	0.6	2.4	1.5	1.6	3.7	2.7	8.4	14.4	11.4
2025-26	India	0.1	0.4	0.3	3.4	3.8	3.6	8	10.9	9.5
	Arunachal Pradesh	2.8	3.7	3.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	12.4	13.5	13
	Assam	1	1.7	1.4	3.4	5.3	4.3	13.9	14.7	14.3
	Manipur	6	6.8	6.4	1.3	2.3	1.8	8.2	8.9	8.6
	Meghalaya	2.9	4.5	3.7	5.1	8.1	6.5	5	9.1	6.7
	Mizoram	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.4	2.7	2.1	8.9	9.7	9.3
	Nagaland	2.9	3.8	3.3	3.5	4.9	4.2	12.4	14.2	13.3
	Tripura	0	0	0	2.7	3.7	3.2	9.7	11.1	10.4
	Sikkim	0	1.3	0.2	0.8	2.8	1.8	10.2	16.1	13.1