

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 305
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2017**

Out of School Students

305. SHRI R. DHRUVA NARAYANA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 2.8 million children are out of school in the country as per the UNESCO report;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and

(c) whether the Government has taken note of it and if so, the details of the comprehensive measures taken by the Government to bring these children to school?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)**

(a): Yes, Madam. As per UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring Report, 2017-18, 2.8 million children were estimated to be out of school in India.

(b): It has been informed by UNESCO that they collect data only at the national level. Hence, State/UT-wise details are not available.

(c): The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides assistance to State Governments and UTs to ensure free and compulsory quality elementary education for all children. Universal enrolment is the first goal of SSA, and hence all efforts are made to bring all children to schools. SSA has provided 2.06 lakh primary and 1.61 lakh upper primary schools for ensuring universal provisioning of schooling facilities. Preference for opening of school is given to tribal areas, and areas with high concentration of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and minority population. In addition, 3703 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, which are residential schools for girls at upper primary level, have also been sanctioned to the States for improving access to marginalised girls particularly out of school, either drop out or never enrolled. As per Unified District Information System for Education

2015-16, the number of total children enrolled at elementary level has increased from 15.1 crore in 1998-99 to 19.67 crore.

Under SSA, provisions have also been made for residential schools/hostels and transportation/escort facility for children living in sparsely populated areas, children living in areas where schools cannot be opened due to unavailability of land and children in need of care and protection. Special training is also provided to all such children who are school dropouts and long absentees and they are enrolled in “back to school” camps.

Additionally, other strategies adopted under SSA such as strengthening school infrastructure, improving pupil-teacher ratios, providing incentives like free textbooks, uniforms for eligible category of children and mid-day meal in schools have proved to be useful in increasing the enrolment of children in elementary schools.
