

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1460  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018**

**Education Systems**

1460. SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are 264 million children and youth out of school;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether in higher education 40 per cent seats of technological/technical colleges are lying vacant during the last three years and the number of medical colleges and teaching hospitals have been closed during these years;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposals for improving education system with commitment and enrolment of student to overcome the challenges of the institutions therein and the accountability of the Government for education to all; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) & (b): As per the report jointly released by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the Global Education Monitoring, worldwide 264 million children and youth are out of school for the school year ending in 2015. This includes 61 million children of primary school age (about 6 to 11 years), 62 million adolescents of lower secondary school age (about 12 to 14 years), and 141 million youth of upper secondary school age (about 15 to 17 years).

However, as per an Independent survey commissioned in 2014 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, 60.64 lakh children were estimated to be out of school in the age group of 6-13 years in India. The number of out of school children in the country in the age group of 6 to 13 years declined from 134.59 lakh in 2005 to 81.50 lakh in 2009 and further to 60.64 lakh in 2014.

(c): The information is being collected.

(d) & (e): Universalization of elementary education is one of the goals of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), which is the designated scheme for implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. Section 4 of the RTE Act, 2009 provides for special training for age appropriate admission of out of school children. Those children who have missed out certain academic years either for never enrolled to school or having dropped out of school, have a right to Special Training in residential and non residential mode, subsequently to be mainstreamed in formal schools in age appropriate class. SSA has been successful in achieving considerable progress in its goal of universal access and retention with 99.36% habitations having schools at primary and 98.20% habitations having schools at upper primary level. 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 at present.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, new secondary schools, strengthening of existing secondary schools, provision of toilet blocks in existing schools with separate toilets for girls, girls hostels in Educationally Backward Blocks, projects on Vocational Education from Class IX onwards, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) facilities to schools, as well as special teaching for learning enhancement, are provided to enhance access to quality education for all.

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