

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 308
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.06.2019**

Dropout Rate in Schools

308. SHRI SHIVAKUMAR C. UDASI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the high school dropout rate in the country;
- (b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the percentage of school dropouts among Muslims and Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes is much higher than the national average; and
- (d) if so, the remedial steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve retention rate and minimize dropout rate in the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')**

(a) to (c): Unified District Information System for Education (U-DISE) collects information from all the schools (government, aided and private) annually on various educational indicators and is used to calculate drop-out rate across all States and UTs. As per U-DISE 2017-18 (provisional), the annual average dropout rate at primary level is 3.5% while it is 5% at upper primary level.

Ministry of Human Resource Development has commissioned three independent surveys to estimate out of school children in the country. These surveys were conducted in the years 2005, 2009 and 2014. The All India survey of Out of School Children in 6-13 years age group conducted in 2014 revealed that there are 60.64 lakh out of school children in this age group. The

major reasons for out of school children reported in the survey are poverty/economic reason, child not interested in studies, child suffering with some disability or poor health, child too young to be attending school, child needed to help in domestic work, education not considered necessary by the parents or Head of the household etc.

Annual Average Drop-out Rate for children belonging to SC, ST and Muslims is given below:

Dropout Rate (in %)					
SC		ST		Muslim	
Primary	Upper Primary	Primary	Upper Primary	Primary	Upper Primary
4.9	6.6	3.7	6.1	7.6	8.5

(As per UDISE-2017-18 Provisional)

(d): The steps taken by the Government to reduce the dropout rate include inter-alia, strengthening of school infrastructure and facilities, residential hostel buildings for children in habitations not covered by regular schools, special training for out of school children, provisioning for additional teachers, regular training of teachers and provision for free text books and uniforms to children. The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme provides for setting up of residential schools for girls from SC, ST, OBC and Minority communities. Funding for these interventions is provided by the Central Government under the Integrated Scheme for School Education – Samagra Shiksha to the States and UTs. The Mid Day Meal Scheme is also being implemented with a view to enhance enrolment and retention of children in schools.
