

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3130**  
ANSWERED ON- 20/03/2023

**DROP OUT SLUM CHILDREN DURING PANDEMIC**

3130. SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that as many as 72 per cent of slum children dropped out of school during pandemic with low levels of literacy and numeracy;
- (b) whether it is true that in 2021-22 enrolment in the school's pre-primary sections fell by 11.5 lakh slum students with an enrolment of 94.95 lakh students in pre-primary classes, signifying a 10 percent decline from the 1.06 crore children during 2020-2021 therefor; and
- (c) if so, the plan of the Government to take back the students in the mainstream?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (c): "Unified District Information System For Education Plus" (UDISE+) under the Ministry of Education, collects the school details about factors related to a school and its resources. UDISE+ has a mandate of collecting information from all recognized and unrecognized schools imparting formal education from Pre-primary to XII. Data pertaining to slum children dropped out of school is not maintained centrally. As per UDISE+, the Overall Annual Average Dropout Rate is as under:

Year	Primary level	Upper Primary level
2021-22	1.46	3.0

As per UDISE & UDISE+, the enrollment of students in Government and Government aided schools in the pre-primary section during the year 2020-21 and 2021-22 is 2478916 and 2741762, respectively.

Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the schools come under the purview of the respective State and UT Government.

The Department of School Education and Literacy with effect from 2018-19 has launched an Integrated Centrally Sponsored Scheme for School Education- Samagra Shiksha. The scheme has now 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.

Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for undertaking various activities for universalisation of school education, including opening/strengthening of new schools upto senior secondary level, construction of school buildings & 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. Further, special training for age appropriate admission of out of school children and residential as well as non-residential training for older children, seasonal hostels / residential camps, special training centres at worksites, transport/ escort facility are also supported to bring out of school children to the formal schooling system. Further, under the student oriented component for the children with special needs, 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.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, mandates the appropriate Government to provide free and compulsory elementary education to every child of the age 6 to 14 years in a neighbourhood school.

Further, financial assistance upto Rs. 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 'Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman' (PM POSHAN) one hot cooked meal in Government and Government aided schools is provided to students at the elementary level of education, including Balvatika.

Also, Section 10 of the RTE Act states that it shall be the duty of every parent or guardian to admit or cause to be admitted his or her child or ward, as the case may be, for elementary education in the neighbourhood school.

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