

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1696
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.03.2020**

Dropout Rate

1696. 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 in this regard and if so, the details thereof, State/ UT-wise;
- (c) whether 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): As per Unified District Information System for Education (U-DISE) (provisional) 2017-18 the annual average dropout rate at primary, upper primary and secondary level is 3.5%, 5.02% and 18.96% respectively.
- (b): Ministry of Human Resource Development has commissioned three independent surveys to estimate out of school children, including drop-out in the country. These surveys were conducted in the years 2005, 2009 and 2014. Some of the reasons for out of school children, including drop-outs, are poverty/economic reason, child suffering from poor health, child too young to be attending school, child needed to help in domestic work etc.
- (c): As per U-DISE 2017-18 the annual average dropout rate for Muslim at primary, upper primary and secondary level is 7.6%, 8.5 % and 23.1% respectively, whereas for Scheduled Caste at primary, upper primary and secondary level it is 4.9%, 6.6% and 21.8% respectively and for Scheduled Tribe at primary, upper primary and secondary level it is 3.7%, 6.1% and 22.3% respectively.

(d) Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to the States and UTs for various activities to reduce number of dropouts, which include 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 residential schools/hostels, free uniforms, free text books, transport allowance and undertaking enrolment drives, residential as well as non residential trainings, Seasonal Hostels/ residential camps etc. Financial assistance is also provided for Inclusive Education of children with special needs. Also, Mid-Day-Meal is provided to students at the elementary level of education.
