

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2341  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2021

**Education for poor**

2341. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:  
SHRI DHARMENDRA KASHYAP:  
SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:  
DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:  
SHRI GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the weaker sections of the society are the most deprived section of the society with extremely low levels of education attainment;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard and the response of the Government thereon;
- (c) the details of measures taken by the Government under the provisions of the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 to ensure equal access to education even when done remotely, regardless of the financial status of children's family,?
- (d) the details of the initiatives taken by the Government for upliftment of the weaker sections of the society along with the success achieved in this regard during the last three years;
- (e) whether the Government is taking any special measures to prevent the exclusion of SC/ST and other vulnerable groups from remote learning/online classes and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to give equal opportunities to all the sections of the society?

**A N S W E R**  
**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a), (b) & (d): 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. Education is a subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the control of the respective State Governments. Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education is implementing Samagra Shiksha to support States and UTs in implementation of the RTE Act, 2009. Ensuring equity and inclusion at all levels of school education is one of the major objectives of Samagra Shiksha. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) shows equitable participation of children belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) in education, which is as under:

<b>GER</b>	<b>All Children</b>	<b>SC Children</b>	<b>ST Children</b>
<b>Primary</b>	102.74	113.11	107.11
<b>Upper Primary</b>	89.67	97.07	93.48
<b>Secondary</b>	77.90	83.02	76.72

(Source :- UDISE+ 2019-2020)

Samagra Shiksha attempts to reach out to girls, and children belonging to SC, ST, Minority communities, etc. SC, ST and minority Special Focus Districts (SFDs) have been identified on the basis of adverse performance on various indicators of enrolment, retention, and gender parity, as well as concentration of SC, ST and minority communities. To ensure equitable education to the most deprived sections of the society, Samagra Shiksha has various provisions like free textbooks, uniform, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas for girls, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Awasiya Vidyalayas/Hostels for areas which are sparsely populated with low density of population (mostly tribal areas). These efforts have resulted in increase in transition rate of SC and ST students across all levels of education. The details for last three years are as under:

<b>Transition Rate</b> <i>(Source :- UDISE)</i>	<b>SC</b>			<b>ST</b>		
	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>
Primary to Upper Primary	88.56	88.54	90.64	91.64	90.77	92.38
Elementary to Secondary	86.40	87.08	88.92	85.89	87.52	87.49
Secondary to Higher Secondary	62.99	64.61	68.11	61.74	62.80	62.78

(c), (e) & (f): A comprehensive initiative called PMeVidya has been started which aims to unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes all forms of digital modes to provide wide access - DIKSHA (online), SWAYAM (online), SWAYAM PRABHA (TV), other TV Channels including use of Doordarshan and AIR Networks. Further, PRAGYATA guidelines were issued to States/UTs to facilitate continued education through various modes. The guidelines inter-alia include situations where internet connectivity is not available or available with very less bandwidth, these resources are shared through various platforms like television, radio etc that do not depend on internet. An Alternate Academic Calendar has been prepared for learning solutions for grade 1 to 12 for both children with and without device. Besides these, community radio, worksheets & textbooks supplied to residence of learners, home visits by teachers, community classes, toll free numbers, SMS based requests for audio content, localised radio content for edutainment etc. have been used. The steps taken by all the states and UTs are shown in the India Report Digital Education, June 2020, which is available at the following link: [https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/India\\_Report\\_Digital\\_Education\\_0.pdf](https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/India_Report_Digital_Education_0.pdf)

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