

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2486  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2021

**Education for Marginalised Communities**

2486. **SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps or has directed the States to focus on attendance of students from marginalised communities as schools reopen across the country;
- (b) the action taken to ensure continued learning in schools attended predominantly by children from migrant, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, economically weaker sections and language minority communities;
- (c) the action taken to bring female students back to school; and
- (d) the action taken to bring back to school those students who took to various forms of employment during school closure?

**A N S W E R**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a) to (d): 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. The decision regarding re-opening of schools is subject to strict adherence to the SOPs of States/UTs concerned and the guidelines issued by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) from time to time. MHA guidelines dated 30.09.2020 stipulate that the States/UTs may take a decision in respect of re-opening of Schools after 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 in consultation with the respective school/institution management based on their assessment of situation and the students could attend schools only with the written consent of parents.

In order to mitigate the impact of closure of schools on school children including children belonging to disadvantaged group and for preventing drop outs, lower enrolments and loss of learning, instructions and guidelines have been issued by Ministry of Education to the States & UTs time to time for continuing education of children including children belonging to disadvantaged

group. The States and UTs have also been suggested steps/actions such as identification of out of school children from age 6 to 18 years, enrolment drives and awareness generation, continued education for Children with Special Needs (CwSN), student support while schools are closed including worksheets and text books supplied to residence of learners, home visits by teachers, community classes etc., to be taken during the school closure and when the schools re-open.

In addition, all States and UTs have been asked to issue necessary directions to the concerned authorities to proactively track girls who are not enrolled in schools or have dropped-out of school without completing their School Education and get them admitted in age-appropriate classes in schools.

Further, an action plan was prepared and shared with States and UTs which contains guidance for States and UTs for preventing drop outs, locating out of school children and mainstreaming them.

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