

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2313**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2022

**Education for Girls**

†2313. SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJI KUNDARIYA:  
SHRI K. NAVASKANI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that the dropout rate for girls is still high after Secondary education and the enrolment ratio too dips at the Secondary and Higher Secondary levels;
- (b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government keeping in view the fact that the onset of menstruation and the lack of availability of hygienic toilets are responsible for girls leaving school without completing education;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to encourage adolescent girls to bring them back to school for formal education/ skill development and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether any holistic system has been put in place for schools going girls on the basis of ongoing schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and National Education Policy so that more adolescent dropout girls can get benefits and if so, the details thereof?

**A N S W E R**

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

(a) & (b): Education is a subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of schools are under the jurisdiction of the State Government. Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education is implementing a centrally sponsored Integrated Scheme for School Education 'Samagra Shiksha', effective from 2018-19, for universalization of quality education throughout the country in coordination with the States and UTs. Bridging gender and social category gaps at all levels of school education is one of the major objectives of the Samagra Shiksha. From the year 2018-19 to 2020-21, the Drop-out rate of girls at Secondary level has decreased from 17.03% to 13.7%, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at secondary level has increased from 76.93 to 79.45 and GER at higher secondary level has increased from 50.84 to 54.65. (*Source: UDISE+*).

Under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of gender segregated toilets in all schools. As per UDISE+ 2020-21, 97.45% Government schools have gender segregated toilets. Also, there is a provision of Composite School Grant which may be used for annual maintenance and repair of existing school buildings, toilets and other facilities to upkeep the infrastructure in good condition.

School Health Programme, under Ayushman Bharat which is a joint collaborative initiative of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and DoSEL, Ministry of Education, a module on 'Growing up Healthy' has been incorporated, which inter alia includes information on physical challenges during adolescence and attaining puberty.

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is implementing the Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) as part of the National Population Education Project (NPEP). One of the learning outcomes of AEP is to make the learners aware of the concerns of adolescence, i.e. process of growing up during adolescence and to inculcate in them positive attitude regarding these concerns.

Additionally, vide a joint letter of Secretary, DoSEL and Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti dated 08.03.2022, the states have been advised to utilize funds earmarked for Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) and management of menstrual waste under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Phase-II at village level, for installation or maintenance of incinerators in schools having girls from classes VI to XII and for creating awareness on MHM among adolescent girls and in the society in general.

Moreover, all States and UTs have been requested to take necessary steps to create awareness amongst adolescent girls in schools about safe usage and benefits of Sanitary Napkins. It has also been communicated that subsidized sanitary napkins are available at the Jan Aushadi Kendras set up by the Ministry of Chemical and Fertilisers, Government of India.

(c) & (d): Under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) in the Educationally Backward Blocks, which are residential schools for girls belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL). KGBVs were functional for classes 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> under the erstwhile Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Under Samagra Shiksha, a provision has been made to upgrade/converge the KGBVs with girls hostels to cover girls upto classes 10<sup>th</sup> (Type II) and 12<sup>th</sup> (Type III) to reduce dropout and enhance enrolment of girls at Secondary and Higher Secondary levels. In KGBVs, specific skill training is imparted to provide need based vocational education to girls.

Further, Special State Specific Projects for varied interventions under equity are emphasized for enhancing access, retention and quality of girls by promoting enrolment drives, retention and motivation camps, gender sensitization modules etc. Financial Support is also being provided under State Specific projects as per the allocation of flexi fund under quality to the state subject to viable proposal received from the respective State and UTs. Such projects include Life Skills, Awareness programmes, Incinerators, Sanitary Pad Vending Machines etc.

Moreover, Samagra Shiksha aims at integrating Vocational Education with general academic education in all Secondary/Senior Secondary schools including KGBVs; enhancing the Employability and Entrepreneurial abilities of the students, providing exposure to work environment; and generating awareness amongst students about various career options so as to enable them to make a choice in accordance with their aptitude, competence and aspirations.