

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1073**

ANSWERED ON 29<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2024

**Dropout of School Children aged 6 to 14 Years**

1073. Shri Rajesh Ranjan:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of children aged 6 to 14 years dropped out from schools in the State of Bihar;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure elementary education for all children aged 6 to 14 years under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA);
- (c) the quantum of funds allocated for SSA during the last three years;
- (d) the quantum of SSA funds utilized for activities not connected with SSA;
- (e) whether the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education has been implemented in the State of Bihar along with the objectives of the programme and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government has evaluated the success of the programme in meeting its objectives; and
- (g) the action taken by the Government for success of the programme?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) : The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education has developed the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) to record data on indicators of school education provided by all the States and Union Territories. The Percentage of dropped out children aged 6-14 years identified under Samagra Shiksha in Bihar State is given below:

	<b>Annual Average Dropout Rate - 2021-22 (in Percentage)</b>	
	Primary	Upper Primary
BIHAR	0	4.62

Source: UDISE+ 2021-22

(b): The erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was under implementation since 2000-2001 for universalization of elementary education throughout the country. Now, SSA along-with other two centrally sponsored schemes of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE) have been subsumed under a new Integrated Scheme for School Education – Samagra Shiksha, launched in the country from 2018-2019. It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. Samagra Shiksha 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.

The Government has undertaken several measures to ensure elementary education for all children aged 6 to 14 years under Samagra Shiksha. These include establishment of new schools and additional classrooms, strengthening of school infrastructure and facilities; provision of one hot cooked meal in Government and Government aided schools to children at elementary level under PM POSHAN, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme; provision of free textbooks and uniforms etc.

(c) & (d): The Central share of Funds allocated and its Utilization for Elementary Education (EE) for the state of Bihar under Samagra Shiksha during the last three years is given below:

Year	Central Share allocated under EE (Rs. In Crores)	Expenditure (EE)(Rs. In Crores)
2021-22	3638.81	5193.35
2022-23	4430.95	5966.48
2023-24	4478.06	6897.78

Source: PRABANDH

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha has an inbuilt concurrent evaluation and monitoring system. The Samagra Shiksha Manual on Financial Management and Procurement contains detailed procedures on fund flow arrangements, accounting, financial reporting, internal control and audit, external audit, procurement procedures, etc. Annual Reports of the State Implementing Societies for implementation of the scheme at State / UT level are also laid on the Table of the Parliament every year. Appropriate corrective action is taken by the State Governments whenever instances of irregularities, if any, come to light in the execution of the scheme.

(e) to (g) : Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme is one of the foremost rights based Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented in partnership with States and UTs providing one hot cooked and nutritious meal to the eligible children. This Scheme is implemented across the country including Bihar and covers 11.56 crore children of Balvatika and Classes I-VIII studying in 10.63 lakh Government and Government-Aided Schools. The objectives of PM POSHAN Scheme are to address

two of the pressing problems for majority of children in India, viz. hunger and education by:

- I. Improving the nutritional status of children studying in BalVatika and classes I-VIII in Government and Government-Aided Schools.
- II. Encouraging poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities.
- III. Providing nutritional support to children of elementary stage in drought and disaster affected areas during summer vacation and disaster times.

In addition to providing one hot cooked meal under the Scheme, the following interventions are also being made to improve the nutrition standards of eligible children:

- Tithi Bhojan: The concept of Tithi Bhojan is being encouraged extensively. Tithi Bhojan is a community participation programme in which people provide special food to children on special occasions/festivals in addition to regular meals.
- Supplementary Nutrition: Appropriate provision is being made under flexibility component for supplementary nutrition in districts with identified high cases of malnutrition etc.
- Some States and UTs provide additional items such as milk, egg, fruits etc. to students from their own resources.

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