

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1691**

ANSWERED ON 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2025

**Key Educational Indicators for SC Students in Bihar**

1691. Shri Arun Bharti:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the key educational indicators for Scheduled Castes (SCs) students in Bihar, including literacy rate, school dropout rate, enrollment rate in higher education, and academic performance;
- (b) the current status of the residential schools for SC students in Bihar;
- (c) the number of operational Eklavya Model Schools and other Government-run residential schools in the country along with their capacity to accommodate students;
- (d) the number of SC students benefited from scholarship schemes in the State;
- (e) the measures being taken by the Government for effective improvement of the students;
- (f) whether the Government plans to introduce special coaching centres, digital education resources and vocational training programmes to support SC students in the State; and
- (g) whether any policies are being formulated by the Government to enhance higher education access and employment opportunities for SC students in Bihar and the status of their implementation?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): The key educational indicators for Scheduled Caste (SC) students in Bihar as per UDISE+ 2023-24 are as follows:-

1. Literacy Rate

- The literacy rate of Bihar (age 7 and above) including SC is 74.3%

2. School Dropout Rate

- Primary Level: 10.5%
  - Upper Primary Level: 27.7%
  - Secondary Level: 26.1%
3. Gross Enrolment Rate (GER)
- Primary education: 97.1%
  - Upper Primary: 79.1%,
  - Secondary: 50.4%
  - Higher Secondary: 32%
  - Higher Education: 16.4 % (AISHE Report 2021-22)

4. Academic Performance

- Secondary Examination Pass Rate (2023, Bihar Board): 71.9%
- Higher Secondary Pass Rate (2023, Bihar Board): 79.9%

(b): In Bihar, 595 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) with an enrollment of 30,050 Scheduled Caste (SC) girls, 15 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Residential Hostels with enrolment of 911 SC students and 39 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) with an enrollment of 3,764 SC students are functional.

(c): As per the information received from Ministry of Tribal Affairs, a total of 476 Eklavya Model Residential Schools is functional, benefitting approximately 1.37 lakh students across the country as on February 12, 2025. Additionally, as per UDISE+ 2023-24, the status of other residential schools are as follows:

	Type of Residential Schools	No. of Fully Residential Schools	Total Enrolment in Fully Residential Schools
<b>INDIA</b>	Ashram (Govt.)	6,882	12,37,216
	Non-Ashram (Govt.)	3,270	8,30,983
	KGBV	2,449	4,30,725
	Model School	719	1,61,852
	JNVs	653	2,89,155
	Others	1,418	2,18,047

(d): Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education is implementing 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme,' a Central Sector Scheme with the objective of awarding scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue their education at secondary stage. One lakh fresh scholarships are awarded to selected students of class IX every year and their continuation / renewal in classes X to XII for study in State Government, Government-aided and Local body schools under the scheme. The amount of scholarship is Rs. 12000/- per annum. The numbers of students of SC category benefited from this scheme in the State of Bihar during the FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 are 2373 and 2477 respectively.

In addition, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing Pre and Post-matric Scholarship Schemes for SC students. The number of students of SC category benefited from Post-matric scheme in the State of Bihar during the FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24 are 136340 and 68975 respectively. Likewise, the number of students of SC category benefited

from Pre-matric scheme in the State of Bihar during the FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24 are 132127 and 146660 respectively.

(e) to (g): National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) aims to ensure that no child loses opportunity to learn and excel because of the circumstances of birth or background. It has taken into account the concerns of the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) which includes female and transgender individuals, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, minorities and other categories. This policy aims at bridging the social category gaps in access, participation, and learning outcomes.

Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the schools and Higher Education Institutions are in the domain of the respective States. The Central as well as State Governments endeavour for effective improvement of the students, including those belonging to disadvantaged communities including SC. The Central Government provides financial assistance to States and UTs under Samagra Shiksha scheme 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. Samagra Shiksha has been aligned with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which aims at fostering holistic development, nurturing critical thinking, and integrating essential skills into the learning process. Digital education initiatives like SWAYAM, DIKSHA, and PM-eVIDYA are being implemented to enhance access to quality education through online platforms. Vocational education component of Samagra Shiksha scheme integrates skill-based learning with academic curricula equipping students including those for Scheduled Castes with essential skills to enhance employment opportunities. In Bihar, 173 schools have been approved under the vocational education scheme, benefitting 3,200 students by providing practical training aligned with career aspirations.

As per information received from Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, the said department implements a Central Sector Scheme namely Free Coaching for Scheduled Castes and OBC students. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to candidates of Scheduled Castes (SC) categories for coaching for various competitive and entrance examinations like UPSC, SPSC, IIT-JEE etc. The coaching under the scheme is provided through empanelled Central Universities. However, no Central University from the State of Bihar has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement the scheme so far.

As per the information received from State Government of Bihar, in order to enhance access to higher education in the State, the SC students are exempted from the fee to be paid at the time of admission to traditional PG/UG courses, provided accommodation at special hostels and covered under Student Credit Card Scheme etc.

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