

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1259**  
ANSWERED ON 28.07.2025

**Dropout Rate of Tribal Children**

1259. Adv Gowaal Kagada Padavi:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has noted that dropout rate among tribal children is still higher than the national average;
- (b) the details of the steps taken/being taken to reduce dropout in tribal dominated blocks and districts;
- (c) whether the Government mapped areas with the highest dropout rates among Scheduled Tribe students;
- (d) whether the Government has launched any special scholarships or incentives for families to retain tribal children in schools, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government expand hostel facilities for tribal girls and boys in remote areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government has taken any new initiatives to bring back out-of-school tribal children; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (g): The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education has developed the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) system to record data on indicators of school education provided by all the States and Union Territories. Dropout rate of Schedule Tribe for India for the year 2023-24 is available at [https://www.education.gov.in/en/parl\\_ques](https://www.education.gov.in/en/parl_ques).

Further, based on the recommendation of National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), w.e.f., 2022-23 UDISE+ has been revitalized, to capture individual student wise data and created student's registry. There has been a complete change in the manner of collection of data from 2022-23 onwards from gross enrolment data to individual student data. It makes comparison of data from previous years statistically different/inchoate.

The Department of School Education and Literacy with effect from 2018-19 is implementing an Integrated Centrally Sponsored Scheme for School Education- Samagra Shiksha. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for undertaking various activities for reducing dropout rate, including opening/strengthening of new schools upto senior secondary level, construction of school buildings & additional classrooms, setting up, up-gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, setting up of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas, Construction of 492 hostels have been sanctioned under PM-JANMAN with the allocation of Rs.123458.63 lakh for the FY 2023-24 and 2024-25 and 2025-26, construction of hostels under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan for unsaturated ST population, free uniforms, free text books, transport allowance

and undertaking enrolment & retention drives. Under 'Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman' (PM POSHAN) one hot cooked meal in Government and Government aided schools is provided to students at the elementary level of education, including Balvatika, which encourages the children to attend schools regularly and contributes towards reduction in dropout rate.

Further, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) is implementing the following Scholarship Schemes to promote and encourage basic and higher education amongst ST population: -

- Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students (Class IX and X)
- Post Matric Scholarship for ST students (Class XI and above)
- National Fellowship for Higher Education for ST students
- National Scholarship for Higher Education for ST students (Top Class)
- National Overseas Scholarship for ST students.

Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) was started in the year 2018-19 to provide quality education at par with Navodaya Vidyalaya to the tribal children in their own environment. Under the new scheme, Government decided to establish 440 EMRSs, one EMRS in every block having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons (as per census 2011). 288 EMRS schools were initially funded under Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution, which are being upgraded as per the new model. Accordingly, MoTA has set the target to set up total of 728 EMRSs benefiting around 3.5 lakh ST students across the country.

Under the scheme of Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes, MoTA funds projects in the fields of education and health, covering residential schools, non-residential schools, hostels, mobile dispensaries, ten or more bedded hospitals, livelihood, etc.

Under Samagra Shiksha Financial assistance upto ₹ 2000 per annum is being provided for Out of School Children of age group of 16-19 years, belonging to socio-economically disadvantaged groups, for completing their education through NIOS/SIOS, for accessing course materials and certification. Further, special training for age-appropriate admission of out of school children and residential as well as non- residential training for older children, seasonal hostels / residential camps, special training centres at worksites, transport/ escort facility are also supported to bring out of school children to the formal schooling system.

In national workshops and directives etc., all States/UTs have been directed to reduce the number of Out of School Children (OoSC). States/UTs have also been requested to participate in "Bringing Children Back to School" campaign with the full and active engagement of School Management Committees and community involvement through Panchayati Raj Institutions. Further, States and UTs have been requested for providing their active support and personal attention to ensure that preventive measures and actions are adopted to retain the children in school.

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