

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 182
ANSWERED ON 21st July, 2025**

Decrease in School Enrollment

182. Dr. D Ravi Kumar:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of measures taken by the Government to address the significant drop of 1.55 crore students in school enrollment between 2018-2022 and 2023-24, as observed across all levels of education and in both Government and Private Schools;
- (b) the specific steps being implemented to counteract the more pronounced enrollment decline in States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, and the details of support being extended to these States;
- (c) the details of initiatives being taken to address the root causes of this decline, such as socio-economic factors, migration, or infrastructure deficiencies in schools; and
- (d) whether there is any link between the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) and the decline in school enrollment during this period, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Government. The Department of School Education and Literacy is implementing Samagra Shiksha, an integrated scheme for school education in 2018-19 covering the entire gamut from pre-school to class XII. The scheme has also been aligned with the recommendations of National Education Policy (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.

As per data available on UDISE+ portal, total number of enrollments in Government schools from primary to higher secondary was 13,11,13,434 in 2018-19. In 2023-24, it was 12,42,56,425. Based on the recommendations of NEP 2020, w.e.f., 2022-23 UDISE+ has been revitalized to capture individual student wise data and create students' registry. There has been a complete change in the manner of collection of data from 2022-23 onwards from the Gross Enrolment Data to Individual student data. This makes comparison of data from previous years statistically different/inchoate.

One of the focus areas of the Samagra Shiksha scheme is to reduce the dropout rate and the number of Out of School Children (OoSC). The scheme includes the provision of opening and strengthening of new schools up to senior secondary level; construction of school buildings and additional classrooms; setting up, up-gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas; setting up of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas; free uniforms, free text books, transport allowance and undertaking enrolment & retention drives.

In addition, support is provided through special training for age-appropriate admission of Out of School Children and for the training of residential as well as non-residential older children. The provision of seasonal hostels or residential camps, special training centres at worksites, transport/ escort facility are also available for bringing Out of School Children to the formal schooling structure.

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.

Under the student-oriented component for the children with special needs of the scheme, financial assistance is provided for identification and assessment of children with special needs, aids and appliances, braille kits and books, appropriate teaching learning material and stipend to girl students with disability etc.

Bridge Course Modules have been developed by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for bridging the learning gaps of Out of School Children studying in Special Training Centers (STC) under the provision of RTE Act, 2009.

Mid-Day-Meal is another initiative by the department for the students at the elementary level of education under PM-POSHAN scheme. Similarly, under National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme, scholarship is awarded to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue the study at secondary stage.

This Department has also developed an online module for compiling the data of Out of School Children (OoSC) identified by each State/UT and their mapping with Special Training Centres (STC) on the PRABANDH Portal (<http://samagrashiksha.in>). The concerned State/UT validates the child wise information of the identified OoSC and STC uploaded by the concerned Block Resource Centre of the State for monitoring the progress of mainstreaming of OoSC.

In the review meetings, national workshops and directives etc., all States/UTs including Bihar, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have been directed to reduce the number of Out of School Children (OoSC). Through communication at level of Minister, 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.

The implementation of NEP is expected to enhance the enrolment and learning outcomes of children in schools.
