

School drop out rate for SC/ST students

1139. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the SC/ST student's school drop out rate is still increasing;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) As per data available with the Ministry, the drop out rate of SC students in primary (classes I-V), Upper Primary (classes I-VIII) and Secondary (classes I-X) stages, has decreased from 41.47%, 59.91% and 71.92% in 2002-03 to 35.96% 53.05% and 69.01% respectively in 2006-07. Similarly, drop out rate of ST students in primary (classes I-V), Upper Primary (classes I-VIII) and Secondary (classes I-X) stages, has decreased from 51.37%, 68.67% and 80.29% in 2002-03 to 33.15%, 62.54% and 78.66% respectively in 2006-07.

(b) and (c) A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for reducing drop out rates. These include, *inter alia*, strengthening of schools, improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, provision of annual school grants, regular training of teachers and regular academic support of teachers etc. in addition, interventions under SSA aim at building community support, flexible schooling for the hardest to reach children, special provisions to promote education of girls through Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalas (KGBV) and National Programme for Education of Girls for Elementary Level (NPEGEL) as well as children with special needs. The Mid-day-Meal programme also complements the strategy to reduce dropout rates.

The Government of India launched a Centrally sponsored scheme called "National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education" with an objective to promote enrolment of girls belonging to weaker sections of the society, to ensure their retention at least till completion of Tenth class and preferable till XII class, to reduce their drop out at secondary and higher secondary stages.

Private schools as madarasas

†1140. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that private schools in Uttar Pradesh are being converted in to madarasas rapidly;
- (b) whether the benefit being given to madarasas by Government is the factor behind this;
- (c) whether it has been investigated into; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.