

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The details of aspirants registered during last three years are as under:—

Academic Years		
2013 – 2014	2014 – 2015	2015 – 2016
12,60,219	13,56,805	13,04,627

(c) The details of number of colleges and seats therein are as under:—

Academic years	Number of Institutions/Colleges	Seats
2012 – 2013	48	19385
2013 – 2014	53	20732
2014 – 2015	104	58524

(d) and (e) No Sir.

Dropout rate of students

689. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dropout rate of students is very high in class I to VIII;

(b) if so, whether Government has identified the reasons for high dropout rates, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of corrective/remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve retention rate and to minimize dropout rate?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) According to the Unified District Information System for Education (U-DISE) 2013 – 14 (Provisional), the average annual dropout rate for primary level was 4.67% and for upper primary level 3.13% during 2012-13, in the country. The drop-out rate has been decreasing continuously over the years with better access to schooling facilities, improved school infrastructure and deployment of additional teachers under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The main reasons for drop outs are poverty, children engaged in household or other kinds of work and seasonal migration of parents in search of work opportunities.

(c) The Central Government is implementing several schemes in collaboration

with State Governments to ensure educational development in the education sector. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is being implemented in accordance with the norms and standards of the RTE Act to enhance enrolment and retention of children, with context-specific interventions for SC/ST students and a multi-pronged approach for reducing dropout rates. This includes *inter-alia* strengthening of school infrastructure and facilities, residential hostel buildings for children in habitations not covered by regular schools, provisioning for additional teachers, regular training of teachers, provision for free text books and uniforms to children. The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme provides for setting up of residential upper primary schools for girls from SC, ST, OBC and Minority communities. The Mid Day Meal Scheme is also being implemented with a view to enhance enrolment and retention of children in schools.

Colleges offering vocational courses

690. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any survey about the colleges in Maharashtra and rest of the country offering vocational courses;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) what action Government proposes to take to offer more vocational courses in colleges of that State and other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) The Government has not conducted any such survey on vocational education. However, the State-wise list of institutes and colleges including Maharashtra imparting vocational education through University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is given in Statement (*See below*).

- (c) The Government has launched Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) and Credit Framework for Skills for vertical and horizontal mobility of the student in skills and general education. Government is also setting up Community Colleges, B.Vocs Courses, Career Oriented Courses and Kaushal Kendras to offer more vocational courses throughout the country.