Districts identified by NITI Ayog, education is one of the sectors with 30 % weightage attached for 8 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which focus on transition rate, availability of functional girls toilets, functional drinking water facility, text-books, functional electricity, pupil teacher ratio, learning outcomes and female literacy. State and district level officers from Aspirational Districts have been oriented on the various activities to be under taken to improve the KPIs through Central and State Government schemes as well as convergence with other departments. A portal has been developed for monitoring of progress and uploading of photographs by the schools.

Measures for increasing retention in schools

1833. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)   what is the drop-out rate in school education;

(b)   what percentage of the children who drop out are girls; and

(c)   the details of the measures taken by Government to increase school retention rates, especially for girls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) and (b) As per Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) 2015-16, the annual average dropout rate in 2014-15 was 4.10% at elementary level and 17.06% at secondary level. The percentage of girls among the children who drop out was 49.10% at elementary level and 46.97% at secondary level.

(c)   The Central Government has launched an Integrated scheme for school education named as Samagra Shiksha w.e.f 2018-19, which subsumes the three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored schemes of school education *i.e.* Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Teacher Education (CSSTE). The common objectives of all the erstwhile Schemes were to enhance access, to promote equity through the inclusion of disadvantaged groups and weaker sections and to improve the quality of education. Further, the new Samagra Shiksha scheme envisages school education as a continuum from pre-school to senior secondary level and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

The major focus of the scheme is to ensure retention of children till completion of schooling with a special focus on girls students by providing support for different interventions like survey and identification of out of school children, Special Training for out-of-school children at elementary level, provision of free textbooks & free uniforms as per Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, upgradation of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) from Classes 6 to 8 to upto Class 12, Self-defence training for Girls, separate toilet for girls students, gender sensitization programmes, stipend for girls with special needs from Classes I to XII, enrolment and retention drives etc. are also supported under Samagra Shiksha to address issues relating to retention of girls in schools.

Research scholars registered in JNU

1834. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of research scholars who are registered in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) per year;

(b) whether the reservation policies are implemented as per the regulations;

(c) whether there is a move to withdraw the provisions for 12.5 per cent seats to employed persons in research registration; and

(d) the existing provisions regarding this matter in the prospectus and ordinances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has informed that the number of registered Research Scholars in JNU is as under:

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
M.Phil/Ph.D. and Ph.D. (Research)	4846	4990	5219	5432	4594	Process going on

(b) Jawaharlal Nehru University follows the reservations policy of the Government of India *i.e.* SC-15%, ST-7.5%, PH-5% and OBC-27% for admission to various programmes