

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2610  
ANSWERED ON 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2024**

**Drop out percentage of school going students from SC/ST, OBC & girls**

**2610 Shri Sanjay Yadav:**

Will the Minister of **EDUCATION** be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of dropout school going students from Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC) and girls, the States having maximum drop outs percentages;
- (b) whether the dropout rate among SCs/STs/OBCs students is disproportionately higher in country's centrally funded technical, medical and management institutions;
- (c) the negative impact of such dropouts;
- (d) the steps being taken to address such abysmal state of affairs regarding SCs/STs, OBCs and girl's dropouts; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) As per UDISE+ for year 2021-22, the dropout rate among school going students from SC, ST, OBC and girls is as under :

<b>Category</b>	<b>Primary Level</b>	<b>Upper Primary Level</b>	<b>Secondary Level</b>
SC	1.46	3.56	12.55
ST	2.83	6.03	16.62
OBC	0.51	2.99	12.87
Girls	1.35	3.31	12.25
<b>Overall</b>	<b>1.45</b>	<b>3.02</b>	<b>12.61</b>

(Source : UDISE+ 2021-22)

Overall taking all levels into consideration, for 2021-22, Manipur and Meghalaya had the maximum dropout percentages.

(b) and (c) As in the Higher Education sector Students have multiple options and they choose and migrate from one course or programme to another, as such there is no concept of Drop Out in Higher education.

(d) and (e) 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 hostels for PVTGs under PM-JANMAN, 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. 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.

Further, 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.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, mandates the appropriate Government to provide free and compulsory elementary education to every child of the age 6 to 14 years in a neighbourhood school. Also, Section 10 of the RTE Act states that it is the duty of every parent or guardian to admit or cause to be admitted his or her child or ward, as the case may be, for elementary education in the neighbourhood school.

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.

For increasing access at higher education, financial assistance and scholarship is provided to students through various schemes such as National Scholarship for Post Graduate Studies (NSPGS), Ishan Uday' Special Scholarship Scheme for North Eastern

Region, PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme etc. Students are also supported through induction program (Deeksharambh) and by establishing counselling cells and grievance redressal mechanism in colleges. Special coaching is also provided to SC ,ST, OBC (non-creamy layer) and minority students to help them overcome academic challenges.

The UGC Regulations for private universities, deemed to be university institutions, and those for affiliation of colleges by the universities provide guidelines to rationalize fees in accordance with the norms/ guidelines prescribed by the UGC and other concerned statutory bodies to ensure that education remains affordable for all students.

Various provisions under National Education Policy, 2020 such as multiple entry and exit options, Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), Choice Based Credit System (CBCS), Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programme (AEDP) provide flexibility in academic pathways and address the diverse needs of students, thereby increasing access, enhancing student satisfaction, and improving overall academic outcomes.

\*\*\*\*\*