

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

\*\*\*

**STEPS TOWARDS REDUCING DROPOUT RATE OF STUDENTS**New Delhi, March 02<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

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 Central Government is implementing several schemes in collaboration with State Governments to ensure 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 SCs, STs, OBCs and Minority communities. The Mid Day Meal Scheme is also being implemented with a view to enhance enrolment and retention of children in schools.

This information was given by the Union Human Resource Development Minister, Smt. Smriti Irani in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha question.

\*\*\*

**DS/RK/DROPOUT RATE**