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Title: Reported alarming increase in dropouts among girl students in the country.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (MAVELIKARA): In a recent study conducted by the HRD Ministry revealed the alarming situation prevailing in the entire country related to the drop out rate of girl students. The drop out rate of girls at 10<sup>th</sup> standard is 63.88 per cent. Various factors contribute to this serious situation. Even after 60 years of our Independence vast number of villages are not having facilities for high school education compelling parents to send their children to far flung areas for schools. Parents are reluctant to send the girl children to far away places. Lack of infrastructure facilities is also the reason for the drop out. It is a fact that most of the schools do not even have urinals.

The Government must take measures to develop infrastructure and increase public spending on education. Although the Common Minimum Programme assures of increase in the public spending in the education sector to 6 per cent of the GDP, this target could not be achieved so far. Therefore the Government should seriously consider increasing the public spending and develop infrastructure particularly in the rural areas.