

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:518
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2002
OPERATION BLACK BOARD SCHEME
A. VENKATESH NAIK

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have conducted any study to review the performance of the Operation Black Board Scheme;
- (b) if so, the States where deficiencies have been noticed;
- (c) the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the corrective steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR.MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.518 TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH APRIL, 2002 REGARDING OPERATION BLACK BOARD SCHEME ASKED BY SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK

(a): A study was conducted by the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) during 1999-2000 in 25 States and 3 Union Territories to review the status of implementation of the Operation Blackboard (OB) scheme.

(b) & (c): The scheme of Operation Blackboard (OB) envisaged that there should be at least two classrooms, two teachers and Teaching Learning Equipment (TLE) in all schools. The study on the scheme showed that the minimum facilities visualized in the OB scheme in terms of classrooms, teachers and Teaching Learning Equipment (TLE) have been provided. However, there have been some shortfalls with respect to these minimum facilities laid down under the scheme. They are:

The study revealed that the average number of classroom in the country improved from 2.3 in 1993 to 3.3 in 1999. On an average, all States except Assam have more than two classrooms per primary school. The availability of common toilets for boys and girls at the national level was 23.1 per cent and separate toilets for girls was 14.6%.

With respect to teachers, about 85 percent of primary schools have two or more teachers in 1999 compared to 71.5 percent in 1986. The percentage was as high as 100% in Sikkim, Kerala and Delhi, while it was 57.7% in Arunachal Pradesh, 74.9% in Bihar, 76.1% in Assam, 79% in Meghalaya and 79.9% in Uttar Pradesh. In all other States, more than 80% of the primary schools had two or more teachers. Existence of single teacher schools in some States was due to substantial increase of new schools and transfer of teachers.

Although Teaching Learning Equipment (TLE) has been supplied to the schools, the utilization has not been found to be optimum due to inadequate training of teachers, fear of breakage, difficulty in replacement of the kits, etc.

(d): The State Specific Reports were shared with all States/UTs and deficiencies were discussed in a national seminar on Primary Education in India held in New Delhi on 25-26th February, 2002. States have been asked to initiate corrective measures. Some of the deficiencies brought out in the study have already been addressed in the national programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). SSA envisages one teacher for every 40 students, subject to a minimum of two teachers in a primary school and one teacher for every class in upper primary schools. It also provides for regular teacher training, a room for every teacher in primary and a room for every class in upper primary, Teaching Learning Material (TLM) grant of Rs.500/- per teacher and TLE for uncovered primary and upper primary schools.