

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1172
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2006
VOUCHER SYSTEM IN EDUCATION .
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Planning Commission has proposed to replicate voucher system in education;
- (b) If so, the details thereof including its objectives;
- (c) Whether public opinion including the opinion of education institutions and experts has been sought in this regard;
- (d) If so, the details thereof;
- (e) The action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (f) The time by which it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) to (f): The Approach Paper to the Xth Five Year Plan is currently under preparation in the Planning Commission. A number of ideas are being suggested in the realm of educational policies and programmes, one of these being the feasibility of introduction of the voucher system in schools. A view was expressed that voucher schemes can help promote equity and quality in schooling in areas where adequate private supply exists, provided they are combined with strict requirements on private schools to give freeships to students in economic need.

At present, the merits of the voucher system are being critically debated and the possibility of introducing the voucher system as a pilot project in a specific area is also being examined to test the concept. Some literature on the voucher system has been received from different organizations. No final view has been taken by the Commission on the voucher system.