

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2690  
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2008  
PRIVATE PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL EDUCATION  
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**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Corporate Sector has suggested for adopting voucher systems and greater private participation in school education;
- (b) if so, the details and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the deficiencies in basic education can only be met by the expansion of private schools; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remove these deficiencies?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a) & (b) In a meeting of Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry, a suggestion emerged that private sector may be given a role in primary education. The framework for implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme, being implemented at elementary level, provides for participation of private sectors within the broad parameters of State policy. SSA and centrally sponsored schemes like 'Integrated Education for Disabled Children' (IEDC) and 'Strengthening of Boarding and Hostel facilities for Girl Students of Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools' envisage a vibrant partnership with non governmental organisations.

(c) & (d) The role of the private sector is to supplement the effort of the Government. In addition to expansion of private schools, there is need to improve quality in Government schools. Central Government has been implementing Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) at the elementary level since 2001-02, inter-alia, with the objective to focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality. It has also been decided to implement a centrally sponsored scheme for universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage during the 11th Five Year Plan. These schemes primarily focus on improving access and quality of Government schools.