

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:28
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010
STANDARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Annual State of Education Report 2009 has revealed that the standard of school education is not upto the mark in the rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the corrective action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 28 FOR 24TH FEBRUARY, 2010 ASKED BY SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA AND SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR REGARDING STANDARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS

(a) to (c) The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is brought out annually by Pratham, a Non Governmental Organisation. ASER-2009 presents certain positive findings, including interalia that (a) 96% of children in the age group 6 to 14 in rural India are enrolled in school, (b) the percentage of out-of-school children in the 6-14 age group has dropped from 4.3% in 2008 to 4% in 2009, (c) the percentage of out-of-school girls in the 11- 14 age group has dropped from 7.2% in 2008 to 6.8% in 2009, (d) there has been a slight decline in the percentage of children enrolled in private schools between 2008 and 2009, (e) the percentage of children in Class 1 who can recognize letters has increased from 65.1% in 2008 to 68.8% in 2009, (f) the percentage of children who can recognize numbers has increased from 65.3% in 2008 to 69.3 in 2009, (g) there is an increase in useable toilets and improvements in availability of drinking water. ASER also points to certain areas of concern, including that

- (i) children's attendance varies considerably across States,
- (ii) multi-grade grouping is widespread,
- (iii) there is an increase in tuition classes across all grades,
- (iv) there are no major improvements in learning levels for children in higher classes.

Government is committed to universalizing access, retention and improving the quality of elementary education through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid Day Meal programme. Government has also enacted the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 as a consequential legislation to the Constitutional (86th Amendment) Act, 2002. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and the Constitutional (86th Amendment) Act, 2002 will come into force with effect from 1st April 2010. The enforcement of the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 will ensure systemic reform for improvement in the quality of education.