

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:383
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010
EDUCATION FOR MENTALLY CHALLENGED CHILDREN
Shantha J.

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

- (a) whether an inclusive education programme for mentally challenged children, launched under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in some States, has shown positive results by creating a favourable atmosphere, inculcating confidence, among the children and motivating the parents to educate such children;
- (b) if so, the amount allocated by the Union Government for this purpose during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the total number of children benefited from this Programme during the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) the States where schemes have been introduced so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) The Inclusive Education programme under SSA covers all kinds of children with special needs (CWSN) including mentally challenged. Under SSA 5,00,380 children with mental retardation have been identified and 3,83,204 have been enrolled in regular schools. Further 9062 children with mental retardation are covered through the bridge courses provided under the AIE/EGS component of SSA, and 35,936 are covered through home based education. The bridge courses have shown positive results and states are gradually mainstreaming mentally challenged children into regular schools. Similarly, home based education programme is conducted for children with severe and profound disabilities. Parents are trained on care and management of such children so that they realise the importance of educating them.

(b) Under SSA, funds are allocated for the Inclusive Education of children with special needs. No separate fund is allocated for each category of special children. The funds allocated for the Inclusive Education programme in the last three years and current year are shown below:-

2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
28068.70	22848.55	24574.13	28309.651

(c) The total number of CWSN that have been covered/ benefitted from this programme during the last three years and current year are shown below:-

2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
21,88,085	24,17,803	25,22,142	27,38,720

(d) The Inclusive Education programme under SSA covers all 35 States and UTs.