

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1083
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2010
PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN RURAL AREAS
Shantha J.

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

- (a) whether ever-widening socio-economic inequalities have adversely affected the infrastructure and quality of primary schools in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action plan of the Government to strengthen the infrastructure and quality of primary schools in rural areas?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The availability of infrastructure and quality of education is uneven across the country. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is the flagship programme for universalising elementary education in the country, both in rural as well as urban areas. SSA provides for inter alia, opening of school in unserved habitations, construction of additional classrooms, provision for teaching learning equipments for new primary and upper primary schools. In addition, several activities have been undertaken to improve the quality of elementary education. This includes, recruitment of 10.22 lakh additional teachers to improve the pupil teachers ratio, annual in-service training of teachers, free distribution of textbooks for primary and upper primary classes to all students, school development grants to schools and grants to teachers for teaching learning material, academic support to primary and upper primary schools through Block Resource Centers and Cluster Resource Centers, and up to 2 % of district outlay for learning enhancement programmes.