

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5434  
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010  
ENGLISH PROFICIENCY  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether India enjoys any advantage over China in English proficiency;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court has raised any scare about China being poised to overtake India in English proficiency;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether it is a fact that only 43.8 per cent of class-I kids in the country could read alphabets as compared to China;
- (f) if so, the details thereof including the performance of States in this regard; and
- (g) the steps taken or being taken by Government to address the issue?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (g): Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has made certain observations while hearing a petition relating to vacancies of teachers in the schools of the National Capital. As regards the teaching of English language till recently, English was introduced at class-IV, V or VI level. However, in recent years, English has been introduced from class I in 24 States/UTs viz. Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal. In six States viz. Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, English is introduced at class-III level and in three States/UTs viz. Daman, Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli (DDH), Gujarat and Karnataka, English is introduced at class-V level. Testing of English has not been included in the Achievement Surveys conducted by NCERT. However, the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), 2009 brought out by a NGO Pratham has reported that 43.8% children can read English letters.