

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6516  
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010  
EDUCATION SYSTEM IN RURAL AREAS  
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**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether it is a fact that there were many facets to the challenge of building a more inclusive educational system in the country particularly for the categories like SC/ST/OBC and other minority sections in the remote areas compared to other urban areas in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): 'Education' is a subject on the Concurrent List of the Constitution, it is the shared responsibility of both the Central and the State Governments and the concerned States are responsible for meeting the challenge of building a more inclusive educational system within the jurisdiction of their State particularly for the categories like SC/ST/OBC and other minority sections in the remote areas as well as urban areas.

The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) recognizes that the rural areas, with poor infrastructure services, will not get the benefit of trained and educated youth, unless rural-urban disparities are reduced and determined measures are taken to promote diversification of employment opportunities. Pursuant to this, a large number of schemes/programmes are under various stages of implementation, which predominantly address the educational needs of rural areas including technical education. The schemes/programmes include Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-day Meal scheme (MDM), Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme, Mahila Samakhya and the scheme of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in Schools. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas have been opened in rural areas specifically in order to provide quality education to rural children. There are other institutions such as Gandhigram Rural Institute and the National Council of Rural Institutes which address issues of reducing disparities in education.

Further, the Right of Children to Free & Compulsory Education Act, 2009 has been enacted which envisages significant reforms in the Elementary Education sector specially with reference to admission, attendance and completion of elementary education by all children in schools which conform to specified norms and standards.