

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2806
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) India's ranking in the world as per the study conducted by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in respect of Human Resource Development as on date;
- (b) whether India is lagging behind comparatively in the world in respect of human resource development despite a higher growth rate;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any action plan has been formulated to make India a leading country in this field; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): No such study is available with the Ministry of Human Resource Development. It is learnt that World Health Organisation(WHO) does not conduct any studies related to Human Resource Development. It is United Nations Development Programme(UNDP), that publish the Human Development Index(HDI), which looks beyond GDP to a broader definition of well-being. The HDI provides a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: living a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy), being educated (measured by adult literacy and gross enrolment in education) and having a decent standard of living (measured by purchasing power parity, PPP, income). This year's HDI, which refers to 2007, for India is 0.612, which gives the country 134th rank out of 182 countries.

(b) to (e) : The Government of India has taken several steps to promote well being of the people and improving standard of living through various development programmes in health, nutrition, education and income generation. The notable example of such interventions are the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, etc. The Ministry of HRD has initiated following major steps to improve areas of education:-

1. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 which provides for free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years and the Constitution Eighty-sixth Amendment Act have come into force from 1st April, 2010.
2. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) inter alia, envisages setting up of new secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation, improvement/strengthening of existing Government secondary schools and appointment of additional teachers to improve Pupil Teachers Ratio(PTR).
3. Saakshar Bharat scheme focuses on women's literacy, especially in rural areas. 80% overall literacy is targeted by the end of the 11th Plan period. The States/UT Governments have been informed that under Saakshar Bharat 70 million non-literates are to be made literate, of which 60 million will be women.
4. Mid Day Meal :- It involves provision of lunch free of cost to school-children on all working days. The key objectives of the programme are: protecting children from classroom hunger, increasing school enrolment and attendance, improved socialisation among children belonging to all castes, addressing malnutrition, and social empowerment through provision of employment to women.