

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:408
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010
SPECIAL FOCUS DISTRICTS UNDER SSA
Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben;Singh Shri Bhola

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

- (a) whether the Government has identified 314 Special Focus Districts (SFDs) for effective implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA);
- (b) if so, the criteria followed for identifying such districts;
- (c) the districts identified thereby, State/U.T.-wise;and
- (d) the results achieved through this intervention so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 408 FOR 25th AUGUST, 2010 ASKED BY SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL & DR. BHOLA SINGH REGARDING SPECIAL FOCUS DISTRICTS UNDER SSA.

(a) to (d): Yes, Sir. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) identifies Special Focus Districts (SFDs) on the basis of the following criteria:

Infrastructure Category:

(i) SFD-A: Districts with a ratio of primary school to upper primary school exceeding 3:1.

(ii) SFD-B: Districts with a classroom gap exceeding 3000 classrooms.

Programme Category:

(iii) SFD-C: Districts with more than 20,000 out of school children, and districts with a gender gap exceeding 10% at primary and 20% at upper primary level.

Social Category:

(iv) SFD-D: Districts with more than 25% Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe or Minority populations.

Districts have been categorized as per the above criteria to enable them to make focused interventions for overcoming their specific gaps in the overall endeavour to achieve universal elementary education. Thus, over the years the number of SFD A, B and C categories has been reducing significantly, which is an indication of improvement in infrastructure, reduction in out-of-school children and narrowing of the gender gap. A comparative statement of SFDs for the years 2007-08 and 2010-11 is annexed.