

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:276
ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010
ABSENTEEISM IN RURAL SCHOOLS
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether absenteeism amongst the teachers especially in Government schools in rural areas have increased alarmingly;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has recently conducted any survey in urban, semi-urban and rural areas of the country in this regard;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure proper attendance of teachers as well as students in rural areas of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (e): As per an independent study on "teacher presence" conducted in 2006-07 in 20 major States, the average attendance rate of teachers was 81.7% at primary stage and 80.5% at upper primary stage. The findings of the study have been shared with the States at various forums requesting them to take steps to put in place mechanisms to improve teacher presence and accountability. Measures taken by the State Governments inter alia include close supervision of schools, and discouraging officers from deploying teachers for non-teaching work. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, which has been operationalised w.e.f. 1st April, 2010, prohibits deployment of teachers for non-educational purposes, other than decennial population census, disaster relief duties, or duties relating to elections to the local authority or the State Legislative Assemblies or Parliament. This is expected to improve teacher presence in the classroom, and will contribute to better student attendance.