

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3268
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2011
ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS
Rajesh Shri M. B.

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

- (a) whether the Government has started Alternative Schools as part of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA);
- (b) if so, the present status of these Schools; and
- (c) the aims and objectives of setting up of alternative schools in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) One of the goals of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is to provide universal access to elementary education to all children. Initially, alternative schooling was provided in the form of Centres under the Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) to provide bridging facilities to out of school children.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides that every child in the 6-14 age group shall have a right to free and compulsory education in a neighbourhood school till completion of elementary education. The RTE Act makes special provision for out of school children to be admitted in a class appropriate to his or her age. It provides that such children should be provided Special Training in order to integrate academically with the class. Accordingly, the SSA norms for alternative schooling have been revised to (a) upgrade all EGS Centres to regular schools within a period of two years from the commencement of the RTE Act, and (b) re-conceptualize AIE centres to function as Centres for Special Training to mainstream children into regular schools.