

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:493
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2011
CHANGE IN NORMS OF SSA
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) norms do not provide for inclusion of expenditure on free text books to students of Primary Schools in SSA budget if concerned State Government was providing free text books to students at the time of commencement of SSA Project;
- (b) if so, whether this does not amount to penalizing these State Governments;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to change the norms and include expenditure of providing free text books to be included in SSA budget for all States without any restriction;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to reimburse the expenditure borne by the State Governments including the Government of Gujarat on meeting expenditure on this account; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): The norms for implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provide for text-books at the rate of rs 150/- per child at primary level and rs 250/- per child at upper primary level for all children in Government/local body and Government aided schools. States that have been providing text-books to children under State Sector Schemes will continue to fund textbooks from the State budget, since it is not the intention of SSA to provide funds to replace State expenditure, but to provide funds to augment State efforts to universalize elementary education. Therefore, SSA norms also provide that if States have undertaken curricular reform in consonance with the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005, and have taken steps to improve the content, production and printing quality of text-books, SSA support will be provided as 'top-up' grants for text-books even under State Sector Schemes, within the prescribed per child ceilings.