

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:625

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2011

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

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

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to include Class V in primary schools and stretch elementary schooling till Class VIII;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether an additional class in the elementary cycle will mean expanding infrastructure of schools in the country;
- (d) if so, the assistance proposed to be provided to each State to meet the infrastructural requirements, State-wise;
- (e) whether faulty curriculum structure affects the quality of learning and leads to a high failure rate adding to the number of drop outs; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per the National Policy on Education 1986 (as modified in 1992), the elementary cycle of education comprises eight years of schooling from Class I to VIII. The primary cycle comprises Class I to V, and the Upper Primary cycle is from Class VI to VIII. There is no proposal to effect any structural changes in above dispensation.

(c)&(d): Some States/UTs follow a seven-year elementary education cycle comprising classes I-IV as the primary stage, and classes V- VII at the upper primary stage of education. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides support to States to move from a seven year to an eight year elementary education cycle. SSA provides one class-room, one teacher and teaching-learning equipment for including Class VIII in the upper primary stage, and teaching learning equipment for including class V in the primary stage. Additional teachers and class rooms in the case of the primary sector are contingent on enrolments in the school.

(e)&(f): To improve quality of education, States have been advised to introduce curricular reform in tune with the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005.