

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2591
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2011
SPECIAL FOCUS DISTRICTS
Devi Aswamedh

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

- (a) whether the Government has identified a number of Special Focus Districts in the country for effective implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA);
- (b) if so, the details and the locations thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken under the said scheme in these areas including the expenditure incurred during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) the success achieved in this regard so far?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Department of School Education and Literacy has identified 389 Special Focus Districts (SFD) under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for the year 2011-12 on the basis of (a) Programme category gaps, viz. (i) districts with a classroom gap exceeding 3000 classrooms, (ii) districts with more than 20,000 out-of-school children, (iii) gender gap in enrollment exceeding 10% at primary and 20% at upper primary level, and (iv) retention rate lower than 60%, and (b) Social category gaps, viz., districts with more than 25% Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe population, 20% Muslim minority population, as well as districts affected by Left Wing Extremism and Border Area Districts. Several districts have been classified as SFDs under one or more of the above categories. The number of SFDs changes from year to year. The state wise number of SFDs for the year 2011-12 is annexed.

(c): The approval accorded over the past three years and the current year for SFDs are as follows:-

(Rs. In lakhs)

Year	No. of SFDs	Total Outlay
2008-09	441	1874984.56
2009-10	399	1865805.09
2010-11	413	2676046.58
2011-12	389	3989846.35

At the central level expenditure figures are maintained State-wise and district-wise expenditure figures are not available.

(d): 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. The categorization of districts as SFDs helps the states to plan and implement interventions in a need based manner, with the flexibility of changing these districts from year to year as the parameters change.