

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:136

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2011

EVALUATION OF SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Singh Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan

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

- (a) whether the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was subjected to any review/evaluation in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof, State-wise and the follow- up action taken thereon;
- (c) whether some State Governments have failed to achieve the targets fixed under SSA;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has received complaints of financial and other irregularities under the said scheme;
- (f) if so, the details thereof including the nature of such irregularities, State-wise; and
- (g) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for effective implementation of SSA?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.136 TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH NOVEMBER, 2011, ASKED BY SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH AND SHRIBHARTRUHARI MAHTAB REGARDING EVALUATION OF SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

(a): The Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission has published an evaluation report of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme in June 2010. The study has brought out certain achievements in terms of access to education. More than 98% of the sampled rural habitations have access to elementary schools within 3 kms, while 93% of sampled slum children have access to neighbourhood schools within 1 km.

(b) to (d): The major recommendations made in the evaluation, include, inter alia the following:

- i. There is a need to open more upper primary schools in order to improve retention and reduce girl dropouts.
- ii. Infrastructure shortages such as lack of blackboards, drinking water, separate toilets for girls, shortage of classrooms, boundary walls/fencing to be addressed.
- iii. Transport facilities for children living in remote habitations or unserved habitations in rural areas.
- iv. Free uniforms should be provided to students living and attending schools in urban slums.
- v. Non teaching activities of teachers to be reduced, recruitment of trained teachers to reduce vacancies and unfavourable Pupil-Teacher Ratios (PTRs).
- vi. No detention policy to be followed by all states at primary level and examinations to be replaced by continuous assessment.
- vii. Classroom libraries to be set up in all schools, and sports equipment to be provided in all schools.
- viii. Constitution of school management committees with parent and student representatives. Greater involvement of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in generation of awareness and community ownership.

The above listed recommendations have become mandatory norms under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, and the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Framework of Implementation has been revised to correspond with the provisions of the RTE Act.

A statement showing cumulative progress on opening of schools, recruitment of teachers and construction of school buildings and additional classrooms in respect of all States and UTs is given in Annexure.

(e) & (f): SSA has a regular system of monitoring, which includes statutory audit and concurrent financial reviews. Action is taken as and when financial irregularities are reported. Such instances include (i) Andhra Pradesh reported embezzlement of Rs.14.98 crore under DPEP/SSA accounts in 2006-07. A FIR was lodged and the State CID investigated the matter. The State Government suspended three Accounts Officials, and transferred another three from the State Project Office of SSA. (ii) In Haryana (2005-2007), 11 officials involved in financial irregularities have been proceeded against, and services of two officials have been terminated. (iii) In Karnataka, action has been taken against 21 officials and an amount of Rs.8.58 lakh was recovered from them. (iv) In West Bengal, an amount of Rs.517.80 lakh was fraudulently withdrawn by eight officials in one district, where the CID has arrested seven persons and proceedings are under way. (v) In Gujarat (2007-2008) action was taken against two officials involved in financial irregularities and Rs.15.98 lakh was recovered. (vi) Nine officials have been suspended in Rajasthan on complaints of misuse of SSA funds and other irregularities. (vii) In Himachal Pradesh FIR was lodged on a complaint of misuse of SSA funds and an amount of Rs.3.02 lakh has been recovered. (viii) In respect of Uttar Pradesh a complaint regarding certain irregularities, including in purchase of uniforms for girls was received. As per the report received from SSA, Uttar Pradesh, the concerned District Basic Education Officer was transferred and disciplinary proceedings were recommended by the State Project Office of SSA, Uttar Pradesh to the State Government. A Civil Miscellaneous Writ Petition (PIL) No. 6062 of 2011 is also pending in the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad on this matter.

(g) SSA has a well defined financial management and procurement system, which lays down the administrative levels and financial limits for implementation of different activities. A rigorous monitoring system is also in place, which includes field level monitoring through reputed institutes of social sciences and university departments of education, as also independent review missions on programme progress by SSA's Development Partners.