

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3422
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2011
TEACHER ABSENTEEISM
Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai

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

- (a) whether absenteeism amongst the teachers especially in Government schools in rural areas have increased alarmingly;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has recently conducted any survey in urban, semi-urban and rural areas of the country in this regard;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof, and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The Government conducted an independent Sample Survey on Students' and Teachers' Attendance in 2006- 07 in twenty States. As per the findings of this survey, the average attendance rate of teachers was 81.7% at primary stage and 80.5%, at upper primary stage. An earlier study conducted by World Bank in 2003 reported the absence rate of teachers in primary schools at 25%.

(e): Consistent efforts are made to improve attendance rate of teachers. The findings of the Sample Survey conducted in 2006-07 were shared with the States at various forums requesting them to take steps to monitor teachers' and students' attendance. Measures taken by the State Governments, inter alia, include close supervision of schools by Block and Cluster Resource Centres and Village Education Committees as also discouraging deployment of teachers for non-teaching work.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which has become operative with effect from 1st April 2010, provides that (a) no teacher shall be deployed for any non-educational purposes other than the decennial population census, disaster relief duties, or duties relating to elections to the local authority or the State Legislative Assemblies or Parliament and (b) teachers shall maintain regularity and punctuality in attending schools.