

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4390
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2011
LACK OF INTEREST IN SCIENCE
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is making attempts to reverse the disturbing trend of students declining interest in basic science especially in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the funds allocated and spent for the purpose in the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and
- (d) the steps being taken to correct the situation in future?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) The number of students offering Science in Class-XII i.e. Physics, Chemistry and Biology in Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has increased. The following numbers indicate that there is no decline in interest in these subjects.

Subject Year REGD APPD PASS

Mathematics 2006 240364 234887 209054

2011 439570 429142 357429

Physics 2006 221276 217363 190338

2011 377840 371729 318059

Chemistry 2006 222047 218004 180464

2011 373697 367918 321091

In view of above, there is no indication that there exists a lack of interest of students in the subjects of basic Sciences. Further, the National Curriculum Framework (NCF)-2005 recommends that Science education in India must undergo a paradigm shift and states that the development of Science corners and providing access to Science experimentation kits and laboratories, in rural areas are also important ways of equitably provisioning for science learning. The new science syllabi and textbooks developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in consonance with the NCF-2005 perspectives provide adequate space for learners for engagement, inquiry and investigations in view of promoting their interest in science. NCERT's textbooks and Laboratory Manuals in Science envisage activity-based learning. These activities are in general low-cost and can often be carried out with the help of house-hold materials. These textbooks and manuals relate classrooms with the children's everyday experience, wherever possible. Enrichment activities like Mathematics/Science Olympiad, Block/District to National level Science Exhibitions under the banner of Jawaharlal Nehru National Science Exhibition are being conducted to make teaching/learning of Science subject more interesting and enjoying. In addition, NCERT also publishes popular science articles in its journals like Primary Teacher and School Science, and monographs in its 'Reading to Learn' series.