

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:397

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012

ASER REPORT ON EDUCATION

Bajwa Shri Partap Singh;Choudhry Smt. Shruti;Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao ;Jindal Shri Naveen;Mani Shri Jose K.;Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao;Singh Shri Bhupendra

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

- (a) whether according to the recent Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) survey, the reading as well as basic arithmetic level of primary school students continue to be low and have even declined in most of the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has analyzed/proposes to analyze the reasons behind this dismal findings revealed in the survey;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures proposed to be taken to ensure satisfactory learning levels among these students?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is brought out annually by PRATHAM, a non-governmental organization. ASER (Rural)- 2011 points out a decline in the reading levels in some States. However, States like Gujarat, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have reported improvement in the reading levels. The report also points to decline in basic arithmetic levels. However, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have reported improvement. Several States in the North Eastern Region of the country also show positive change.

The National Learners' Achievement Surveys conducted periodically by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for classes III, V and VIII has revealed improvements in the overall learning level in the subjects of Mathematics and Language. Till now, two rounds of such Achievement Surveys have been completed by NCERT. A comparative table of the progress in respect of the two rounds is given below:

Subject	Class III	Class V	Class VIII
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	Round I	Round II	Round I	Round II	Round I	Round II
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Mathematics	58.25%	61.89%	46.51%	48.46%	39.17%	42.71%
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Language	63.12%	67.00%	58.57%	60.31%	53.86%	56.50%
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The findings of Achievement Survey for Round III, class V recently completed by NCERT indicates improvement in achievement levels in both Mathematics and Language.

(e): The Government has issued an Advisory on implementation of section 29 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act to State Governments for initiating curriculum reform, including, inter alia (i) formulating age-appropriate curricula and syllabi in keeping with National Curriculum Framework (NCF)-2005, (ii) maintaining subject balance,(iii) initiating textbook contents and production reform, (iv) ensuring continuous and comprehensive assessment for learning.

Teacher availability in schools is key to the improvement of quality of learning. The RTE Act provides that the prescribed Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) should be maintained for each school. States have been advised to rationalise the deployment of teachers to conform to the provisions of the RTE Act. Further, the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has laid down teacher qualifications under Section 23 of the RTE Act. NCTE has also notified the Guidelines for Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) to be conducted by the appropriate government. The Central TET has been held twice, and several States have also held the State TET.