

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1226
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012
RANKING OF INDIA IN EDUCATION
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the results of Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), a globally recognised programme to measure quality of education imparted in schools, India is second from the bottom among the 74 countries participated under this programme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the corrective measures initiated by the Government based on the study/assessment of PISA;
- (d) whether any study/assessment to monitor the quality of education in the country is being done by the Government;
- (e) if so, the details and the outcome of such study; and
- (f) if not, the steps being contemplated by the Government to initiate the study/assessment?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) was piloted in two Indian states i.e. Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in which a total 4850 students of 15 years of age, participated. Out of total 74 countries/areas which participated under this programme, the State of Tamil Nadu ranked 72 and State of Himachal Pradesh ranked 73. The purpose of this pilot study was to build our capacity for international participation and to understand the methodology and other aspects of the international survey.

(d) to (f) At the elementary education level, NCERT periodically conducts Learner Achievement Surveys. To date NCERT has completed two rounds of Learner Achievement Surveys in all subjects for classes III, V and VII/VIII. In addition, the Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) of the Planning Commission had conducted an evaluation of the SSA programme in 2010, which points to significant improvement in access and enrolment, as well as social and gender equity in enrolment. The study has also pointed out that there has been moderate improvement in the pupil teacher ratio and availability of infrastructure. The quality of learning, however, varies considerably between States. Further, the implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), which is the country's flagship programme for elementary education is subject to bi-annual joint reviews by SSA's Development Partners, namely the World Bank, DFID and European Commission along with nominees of the Government of India. To-date 15 Joint Review Missions have been held.

SSA Framework of Implementation has been revised to correspond with the provisions of the RTE Act, 2009 and provides for several interventions to improve the quality of elementary education, including inter alia opening new schools, recruiting additional teachers, periodic in-service teacher training, provision of textbooks and uniforms, regular academic support for learning enhancement to teachers. Further, the Government has issued an Advisory to State Governments on the implementation of section 29 of the RTE Act for initiating curriculum reform, including (i) formulating age-appropriate curricula and syllabi in keeping with the National Curriculum Framework (NCF)-2005, (ii) maintaining subject balance, (iii) initiating textbook contents and production reform, (iv) ensuring continuous and comprehensive assessment for learning.

At the secondary level, Central Board of Secondary Education has introduced Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation upto X standard in order to impart holistic education and to promote quality education in all the school affiliated to the Board. The Board has also made Class X Board Examination optional for the students studying in Senior Secondary Schools.

During 11th Five Year Plan, in order to achieve universal access to secondary education and improve its quality, a new centrally sponsored programme "Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)" was launched in March, 2009 with a target to ensure universal access of secondary education by 2017 (GER of 100%) and universal retention by 2020. Further, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Information and Communication Technology in Schools' was revised in 2010 to promote computer enabled learning and ICT usage in Government and Government aid secondary and higher secondary schools and thereby enrich teaching learning processes.