

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2374

ANSWERED ON:28.03.2012

EDUCATION REFORMS

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

- (a) the reforms in education the Government proposes to bring about in the country including for reserved categories;
- (b) the finances proposed to be incurred in case of each of the reforms;
- (c) the reactions/opinions received from the State Governments in case of each of the reforms; and
- (d) the reforms which would require statutory changes in the State legislations?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) : Education reforms are a continuous process and the Government seek to carry them forward through expansion, inclusion and rapid improvement in quality through institutional and policy reforms and by enhancing public spending. Government has already introduced four Bills in the Parliament aiming at reforms in higher education which include proposals for prohibition of unfair practices in technical educational institutions, medical educational institutions and universities; mandatory accreditation of higher educational institutions; educational tribunals for adjudication of disputes; and legislation to regulate entry and operation of foreign educational institutions.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2010 has been enacted which envisages significant reforms in the Elementary Education sector. The Act makes it incumbent on Government to provide free and compulsory education to all children of 6-14 years of age; ensure compulsory admission, attendance and completion of elementary education by every child of the age of six to fourteen years. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) follows a holistic approach to improve the quality of elementary education, and subject to certain norms, provides for opening of new primary schools, upgradation of primary schools to upper primary schools and construction of school buildings. The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan was launched in March, 2009 with the objective to universalize access to secondary education and to improve its quality. The scheme aims to achieve an enrolment ratio of 75% for class IX and X within five years. CBSE has taken number of steps for educational reforms which includes no Class X Board examination w.e.f. 2011 for students studying in CBSE's Senior Secondary Schools and who do not wish to move out of the CBSE system after Class X.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has made a number of academic reforms including introduction of semester system, choice based credit system, curriculum development, reforms in admission procedures, in examination and evaluation systems, UGC has also taken various steps for educational reforms which includes Quality Assessment Cell in Universities and Colleges, Regulations for Deemed Universities, Academic Reforms of Universities and College System, regulations for M.Phil and Ph.D admission, Faculty Development, Pay and Service conditions of Teachers, etc. AICTE has taken initiatives for reforms which include permission to institutions under Section 25(g) of the Company Act, 1956 for setting up technical education institutions. Further, stand alone Post Graduate institutes are allowed to be set up for promoting research and development.

An amount of Rs. 52,060 crores has been allocated for Education sector during the year 2011-12.

Educational reforms are discussed in the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) which is the highest advisory body in the field of education to advice Central Government and State Governments/UTs, in its meetings held from time to time. The CABE consists of Education Ministers of States/UTs and eminent educationists. In its 56th meeting held on 31.8.2009, CABE unanimously endorsed the general need for reforms at all levels of education and felt that while there may be different view points on the pace and process of reforms, there was unanimity on its direction in the interest of children who are India's most precious assets.