

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3278  
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2012  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
Annayagari Shri Sai Prathap

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

- (a) India's ranking in the world as per the study conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) in respect of Human Resource Development as on date;
- (b) whether India is lagging behind comparatively in the world in respect of human resources development despite a higher growth rate;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any action plan has been formulated to make India a leading country in this field; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a): It is learnt that the World Health Organisation (WHO) does not conduct any studies related to Human Resource Development. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) brings out Human Development Index (HDI) every year, which looks beyond GDP to a broader definition of well-being. The HDI provides a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: living a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy), being educated (measured by adult literacy and gross enrolment in education) and having a decent standard of living (measured by purchasing power parity, PPP, income). This year's HDI, which refers to 2011, for India is 0.547, which gives the country 134th rank out of 187 countries.

(b) to (e): The Government of India has taken several steps to promote well being of the people and improving standard of living through various development programmes in health, nutrition, education and income generation. The notable examples of such interventions are the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, etc. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has initiated the following major steps to improve areas of education:-

1. The Eighty-sixth Amendment of the Constitution of India in 2002 inserted Article 21-A to provide free and compulsory education for all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right in such a manner as the State may, by law, determine. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, a legislation envisaged under Article 21-A of the Constitution, means that every child has a right to full time elementary education of satisfactory and equitable quality in a formal school.
2. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides for a variety of interventions for universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in elementary education and improving the quality of learning. The interventions of this Scheme include inter alia, opening of new schools and alternate schooling facilities, construction of schools and additional classrooms, toilets and drinking water, provisioning for teachers, periodic teacher training and academic resource support, textbooks and support for learning achievement.
3. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) inter alia, envisages setting up of new secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation, improvement/strengthening of existing Government secondary schools and appointment of additional teachers to improve Pupil Teachers Ratio (PTR).
4. Saakshar Bharat, formulated with the objective of achieving universal literacy by focusing on adult women literacy, seeks to reduce the gap between male and female literacy to not more than 10 percentage points. The mission has four broader objectives, namely imparting functional literacy and numeracy to non-literates; acquiring equivalency to formal educational system; imparting relevant skill development programme; and promote a learning society by providing opportunities for continuing education.
5. Mid-Day Meal Scheme involves provision of lunch free of cost to school-children on all working days. The key objectives of the programme are: protecting children from classroom hunger, increasing school enrolment and attendance, improved socialisation among children belonging to all castes, addressing malnutrition, and social empowerment through provision of employment to women.