

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:379
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012
EDUCATION AMONGST SLUM DWELLERS
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the lack of education opportunities for both primary and secondary children living in the slum;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to initiate special schemes for improving education amongst children in slum dwellers including provision of books and stationery items to them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 379 TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND MAY, 2012 ASKED BY SHRI VARUN GANDHI REGARDING EDUCATION AMONGST SLUM DWELLERS

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. With a view to addressing the special problems of children in urban slums, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has, since inception, provided for residential and non-residential courses for urban deprived children, street children, working children, etc. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE) has become operative from 1st April, 2010, and entitles all children in the 6-14 age group to free and compulsory admission, attendance and completion of elementary education. Consequently, the SSA norms were revised to correspond with the provisions of the RTE Act. SSA norms make provision for special training for out-of-school children to be mainstreamed into age appropriate class in regular schools, which is also available for urban deprived children. In addition, a new provision for residential facility, by re-deploying public buildings, refurbishing unused old buildings has been included under SSA for urban deprived children without adult protection, who are in need not merely of day schooling facilities, but also board and lodging.

The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) is being implemented from 2009-10 with an aim to ensure access to a secondary school within a reasonable distance of any habitation, with special focus on children from disadvantaged sections including urban deprived children.

(c) to (e): SSA provides support for uniforms and textbooks for children, including for urban deprived children as per approved norms. In addition, several States provide stationery, school bags, transport facilities etc. SSA norms have also been revised to provide for transportation or escort facilities in urban areas where availability of land is a problem or children belonging to extremely deprived groups or children with special needs.

While RMSA does not have specific norms/provisions for children of slum, dwellers, interventions including survey and identification of out of school children, bridge courses and special teaching for learning enhancement, and residential camps for drop out students are supported under RMSA.