

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4187
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012
EDUCATION IN MOTHER TONGUE
Patel Shri Devji

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

- (a) whether the interest of children in learning suffers due to the difference in the language used at homes and the language in books;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has prepared any programme to impart education to the greatest extent possible in simple language as used in homes in keeping with the provisions of Right to Education Act; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): In a multilingual country like India, the child's 'home' language is often different from the 'standard' language in schools. This imposes a learning burden on the child, and is perhaps one of the reasons of low achievement in school subjects. The difference between the 'home' language and 'textbook' language not only affects the language learning in school, but also subjects like Mathematics, Environment Studies, etc. because these subjects also need a language for transaction. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 acknowledges the importance of child's home language as a medium of instruction, and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 stipulates that the academic authority, while laying down the curriculum and evaluation procedure shall take into consideration inter alia that the medium of instruction is, as far as practicable, in the child's mother tongue. States have been advised to undertake curriculum renewal process in accordance with the spirit and principles of NCF-2005 and the RTE Act, 2009 and several states have initiated the curriculum renewal process. The Government has also issued an Advisory to States that efforts to incorporate well known methods of bridging between the child's 'home' language with the 'standard' classroom language need to be given utmost attention.