

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4225

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012

NEW GUIDELINES FOR EDUCATION SECTOR

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has laid down new guidelines to change the basic structure of the education sector and to ensure decline in the drop out rate of children going to schools across the country;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the details of the new guidelines issued by the Union government in this regard;
- (d) the extent to which the objectives of new guidelines have been achieved so far in various States;
- (e) whether the Government has sanctioned 25,000 crore rupees for achieving the objectives; and
- (f) if so, the details of the mechanism to check the proper utilisation of funds sanctioned for the said purpose by various States?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1968, stated that it will be advantageous to have a broadly uniform educational structure in all parts of the country. The ultimate objective should be to adopt the 10+2+3 pattern. This includes 10 years of elementary and secondary education, 2 years of senior secondary education, and 3 years of collegiate education. NPE 1986, as revised in 1992, reiterates the need for the 10+2+3 structure and also states that efforts will be made to move towards an elementary system comprising 5 years of primary and 3 years of upper primary education.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for elementary education, comprising 8 years of primary and upper primary education of children in the 6-14 age group. This is in consonance with the NPE, 1968, 1986, 1992. Several States continue to follow a 7-year elementary education cycle comprising 4 years of primary and 3 years of upper primary education. These States have been advised to shift to a 5+3 pattern and ensure that children in the 6-14 age group are provided 8 years of elementary education. With a view to facilitating States to move towards a 5+3 elementary education cycle, the Government has revised the norms of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme to provide for additional classroom and additional teacher and teaching learning material as per approved norms.

Further, with a view to ensuring universal access, reducing drop out and improving the quality of education, SSA provides inter alia for (a) opening new schools as per neighbourhood norms prescribed by the State in the RTE Rules, (b) providing additional teachers as per the pupil teacher ratio (PTR) prescribed in the schedule to the RTE Act, (c) providing additional classrooms and infrastructure facilities as per the RTE Act, (d) making provisions for uniforms for all girls, SC, ST and BPL children, (e) provision of Special Training for mainstreaming out-of-school children into an age-appropriate class. SSA norms also provide for untrained teachers to acquire the professional qualifications prescribed by NCTE. In addition, the revised SSA norms provide for augmenting academic support for block and cluster resource centres.

(e) and (f): The Central outlay for SSA proposed in the Budget 2012-13 is Rs 25,555 crore. For effective implementation of SSA, a rigorous monitoring system is in place, which includes inter-alia, annual financial audits by Chartered Accountants empanelled by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, concurrent financial reviews by the Institute of Public Auditors of India (IPAI), periodic review meetings with State SSA Finance Controllers, field level monitoring through reputed institutes of social sciences and university departments of education, as also independent review missions on programme progress. A transparent system of electronic transfer of funds to State Project Offices of SSA in States & Union Territories is also in place.