

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4242

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012

IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATION SYSTEM

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

- (a) whether a report prepared by the Accountability Initiative, a wing of Centre for Policy Research, India's school education system failed to show desired improvement due to poor utilization of funds and irregular disbursements;
- (b) if so, the details of the report;
- (c) the major points raised in the report;
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve India's school education system?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The PAISA Survey, conducted by Accountability Initiative, covered 14,283 schools. The specific point of investigation in the PAISA report is annual school grants under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), namely (i) Maintenance Grant, (ii) School Grant and (iii) Teacher Grant, which as per PAISA's own findings accounted for 5% of the total allocation under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. PAISA findings indicate that:

(i) Overall, the grant receipts to schools have improved from 77% in 2008-09 to 82% in 2010-11. The break-up of the grants is 84% schools received Maintenance Grant, 87% schools received Teacher Grant, and 77% schools received School Grant.

(ii) The quantum of grants received in schools has improved from 55% schools in 2008-09 to 70% schools in 2010-11 receiving all three grants.

(iii) On an average 90% schools that receive money report spending their money. Schools spent their money on whitewashing/plastering (68%), repair of toilet (39%), repair of drinking water facility (48%), repair of boundary wall (26%), repair of building (roof, floor, wall) 50%, purchase of electrical fittings (36%), purchase of furniture (46%), payment of bills (39%), school events (69%), purchase of charts, globe, other teaching material (77%), purchase of sitting mats/ tat patti (56%), purchase of chalk, duster, register (89%), painting blackboard, display board, etc (71%)

The Government has shared the findings of the PAISA report with State Education Secretaries, and advised States to ensure timely release of annual grants to schools.

(e): With a view to improving the elementary education system, the SSA norms have been revised to correspond with the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. The Mid Day Meal programme has also been introduced to encourage children to attend school regularly. At the secondary education stage, the Government has introduced the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) in order to universalise access and improve the quality of secondary education.