

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4275
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012
DECLINE IN QUALITY OF EDUCATION
Bhagat Shri Sudarshan

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

- (a) whether the increase in enrolment of children in the schools across the country has led to decline in quality of education;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether the stress on rote learning process in schools is leading to the said decline in the quality of school education; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (b): There is no evidence to show that increase in enrolment has led to decline in quality of education. However, increased enrolment has brought pressure on the existing school facilities. In order to overcome this problem the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 lays down norms and standards for infrastructure, teachers, teaching learning equipment, etc. Further, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has conducted two rounds of National Learners' Achievement Surveys for classes III, V and VIII. The findings of these two rounds of National Learners' Achievement Surveys do not show any decline, but point to improvement in the average learning achievement level of children.

(c) to (d): National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 lays emphasis on ensuring that learning shifts away from rote methods, and on enriching the curriculum to provide for over all development of children, rather than remain textbook centric. The RTE Act also provides that the curriculum and evaluation procedure shall inter alia take into consideration the all round development of the child, building up the child's knowledge, potentiality and talent, and learning through activities, discovery and exploration in a child friendly and child centered manner.

States have been asked to undertake curriculum renewal in accordance with the principles of NCF-2005 and the provisions of the RTE Act, 2009. Several states have already initiated the process. SSA provides support to the states for both undertaking the curriculum renewal and training of resource persons and teachers.