

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:229
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2012
QUALITY OF EDUCATION
Singh Shri Ijyaraj ;Sinh Dr. Sanjay

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

- (a) whether there is any mechanism at present to check the quality of education in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which the said mechanism maintain and improve the quality of education in the country; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): Yes Sir. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 has become operative with effect from 1st April, 2010 and the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Framework of Implementation has been revised to correspond with the provisions of the RTE Act, 2009. SSA provides for several interventions to improve the quality of elementary education, including inter-alia opening new schools, recruiting additional teachers, periodic in-service teacher training, provision of textbooks and uniforms, regular academic support for learning enhancement to teachers. Further, the Government has issued an Advisory to State Governments on the implementation of section 29 of the RTE Act for initiating curriculum reform, including, (i) formulating age-appropriate curricula and syllabi in keeping with the National Curriculum Framework (NCF)-2005, (ii) maintaining subject balance, (iii) initiating textbook contents and production reform, (iv) ensuring continuous and comprehensive assessment for learning.

At the elementary education level, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) periodically conducts Learner Achievement Surveys. Till date NCERT has completed two rounds of Learner Achievement Surveys in all subjects for Classes III, V and VII/VIII. NCERT has commenced the third round of Learner Achievement Survey, and has completed the same in respect of Class V. In addition, the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission had conducted an evaluation of the SSA in 2010, which points to significant improvements in access and enrolment, as well as social and gender equity in enrolment. Further, the implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), which is the country's flagship programme for elementary education is subjected to bi-annual joint reviews by SSA's Development Partners, namely the World Bank, DFID and European Commission along with nominees of the Government of India. To-date 15 Joint Review Missions have been held.

At the secondary education level, the Central Board of Secondary Education has introduced the scheme of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) in its schools in a phased manner for improvement of quality in the schools affiliated to it. The CBSE has also started a Pilot Project on accreditation of schools which aims at institutional capacity building of school for continuous quality improvement through self analysis and self monitoring on pre determined criteria. It strives to establish a level of acceptable quality for all accredited schools while respecting their unique vision. The Board has laid down bench marks and guidelines in this regard by bringing out CBSE Manual on School Quality Assessment and Accreditation.

Rashtriya Madhayamik Shiksh Abhiyan has been launched in 2009 with the vision to make secondary education of good quality available affordable to all children up to class 10. The scheme envisages providing a secondary school within 5 Kms. and improving the quality of education in Government schools by strengthening their infrastructure and teachers. Further, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Information and Communication Technology in Schools" has been revised in 2010 to promote computer enabled learning and ICT usage in Government and government aided secondary and higher secondary schools, and thereby enrich teaching learning processes.

At the level of higher education, University Grants Commission (UGC), which has the mandate for coordination and determination of standards in Universities, has been implementing a number of schemes aimed at improvement of quality of education in Indian Universities and has taken up various measures for educational reforms, such as introduction of semester system, regular updating of curricula and Choice Based Credit Systems (CBCS) etc, which have been implemented by most of the Central universities. The UGC has also issued Regulations on "Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2010" for improving the standard of teaching in Indian Universities. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an autonomous body established by the UGC, accredits Universities and colleges on various parameters of quality. The National Board of Accreditation (NBA) accredits programmes offered by the technical institutions.