GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1965
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012
SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was subjected to any review/evaluation in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof, State-wise and the follow-up action taken thereon;
- (c) whether some State Governments have failed to achieve the targets fixed under SSA;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has received complaints of financial and other irregularities under the said scheme;
- (f) if so, the details thereof including the nature of such irregularities, State-wise; and
- (g) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for effective implementation of SSA?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

- (a): The Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission has published an evaluation report of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme in June 2010.
- (b) to (d): The study has brought out, inter alia, that more than 98% of the sampled rural habitations have access to elementary schools within 3 kms, while 93% of sampled slum children have access to neighbourhood schools within 1 km. The study also recommended strengthening of school infrastructure, providing free uniforms, reducing non-teaching load on teachers, no-detention policy, constitution of School Management Committees with parents' representation, etc. These recommendations have become mandatory norms under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 and the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Framework of Implementation which provides for schools in neighbourhood, norms and standards for school infrastructure, distribution of uniforms to the girls and SC/ST and BPL boys, ban on engagement of teachers for non-educational purposes other than decennial population census, disaster relief duties or duties relating to elections to the local authority or the State Legislatures or Parliament, ban on private tuitions or private teaching activities, non-detention of children before completing Class VIII, continuous and comprehensive evaluation and School Management Committee for all the government schools with three-fourth members from amongst parents, etc. The statement showing State-wise progress is at Annexure I.
- (e) & (f): The complaints of financial and other irregularities received under SSA, State-wise, are at Annexure II.
- (g): SSA has put in place a Manual on Financial Management and Procurement, annual statutory audit, concurrent audit of all State SSA Societies in a cycle of two years and audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. Besides, 41 independent monitoring institutes and half-yearly review missions are in place.