

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:278
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2012
EQUITABLE EDUCATION THROUGH CSS
Gangaram Shri Awale Jaywant

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

- (a) whether the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) in the education sector seek to ensure education of equitable quality;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the corrective steps being taken by the Government to enhance access through expansion of quality education in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.278 FOR 12.12.2012 ASKED BY SHRI JAYWANTRAO AWALE REGARDING "EQUITABLE EDUCATION THROUGH CSS".

(a) to (d) : Yes, Sir. Government has launched a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) in order to enhance access to education with equity and quality. The schemes under School Education include:-

(i) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is a programme for universalization of elementary education. Its overall goals include universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in elementary education, and achieving significant enhancement in learning levels of children. Under SSA, the target group is children in the age group of 6-14 years.

(ii) Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, has been under implementation since 2009-10 with a vision to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all children up to class 10. The scheme envisages providing a secondary school within 5 Kms. of a habitation and improving the quality of education in Government schools by strengthening their infrastructure and teacher provisioning.

(iii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Teacher Education:- The Right of Children to Free and compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 poses major challenges for improving the quality of teachers and for expanding institutional capacity in states to prepare professionally trained persons for becoming school teachers, Accordingly, the Centrally-Sponsored Scheme of Restructuring and Reorganization of Teacher Education, launched during 1987 in pursuant of the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986, has been revised in order to meet the exceptional challenges for the Teacher Education system arising from the massive spatial and numerical expansion of school facilities at the elementary and secondary levels, the corresponding increase in the demand for teachers and to fulfil the statutory obligations of the Government with regard to teacher preparation and teacher training under RTE.

(iv) Mid Day Meal Scheme:- With a view to enhancing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously improving nutritional levels among children, the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 15th August 1995, in 2,408 blocks in the country as a dry ration scheme. Over the years, this scheme has been revised many times to make it more effective.

(v) In the Higher Education Sector, the important programmes/ schemes include :-

(i) Setting up of 374 Model Degree Colleges:- The Central Government has approved a scheme to assist State Governments to set up Model degree colleges in each of the 374 identified educationally backward districts where the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for higher education is less than the national GER.

(ii) Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP) Phase II:- Based on the achievements made during TEQIP Phase-I, TEQIP Phase-II is being implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) with the assistance of the World Bank at a total cost of RS. 2,430 crore.

(iii) Sub-Mission on Polytechnics under Coordinated Action for Skill Development. The Sub-Mission on Polytechnics is having the following components-

- (a) Setting up of New Polytechnics
- (b) Strengthening of existing Polytechnics
- (c) Construction of Women's Hostels in Polytechnics
- (d) Scheme of Community Development through Polytechnics (CDTP)

In addition, University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) have also taken a number of steps to ensure access to education with equity and quality.