

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3171

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2012

STANDARD OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

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

- (a) whether the quality of education in schools and colleges has declined in the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether there are deficiencies in the learning standards of a large number of students of Government schools in the country;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the time-frame involved and the targets set for improving the standard of education of students; and
- (e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): The reasons for the decline in the quality of education and the deficiency in the learning standard of a large number of students in government schools may be attributed to inadequate infrastructure facilities in the schools, an adverse pupil teacher ratio, the presence of a large number of untrained teachers in the system, the curriculum, syllabus and textbooks not being in sync with the principles of National Curriculum Framework (NCF) - 2005 and the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009, an excessive subject load on children, the absence of child-friendly and child-centered classroom processes, and the prevalence of traditional methods of memory based assessment systems.

(d)&(e): To improve the standard of education, the RTE Act, 2009 prescribes the timeframe for various activities mandated in the Act. This includes:

Activity	Time Frame
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Establishment of neighborhood schools	3 years (by 31st March, 2013)
Provision of school infrastructure	3 years (by 31st March, 2013)

- # All weather school buildings
- # One-classroom-one-teacher

- # Head Teacher-cum-Office room
- # Toilets, drinking water

- # Barrier free access
- # Playground, fencing, boundary walls
- Provision of teachers as per prescribed
- Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) 3 years (by 31st March, 2013)
- Training of untrained teachers 5 years (by 31st March, 2015)
- Quality interventions and other provisions With immediate effect

The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, has been under implementation since 2009-10 with the 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. Besides providing infrastructure in the schools, other quality related interventions such as the in-service training of teachers every year, a leadership development programme for heads of the schools, maths kit, science kit, bridge courses, special teaching for learning enhancement, e-learning etc. are being provided under the RMSA.

With regard to improving the quality of education in colleges/universities, the University Grants Commission has taken several steps which include issuing Regulations on the Maintenance of Standards and Quality in all Universities, including Private Universities, Deemed to be Universities, Central Universities and State Universities.

