

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2609

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2013

BAN ON ADMISSION OF MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS

Singh Rajkumari Ratna;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

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

- (a) whether 40 per cent mentally retarded children are banned from admission into Government and recognised schools;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to ensure the admission of such children in Government and recognised schools through provision of reservation?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) No Madam. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory education for all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years, including mentally challenged children. The Inclusive Education Programme under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) covers Children with Special Needs (CWSN) including mentally challenged children. The key thrust is on providing inclusive quality education to all CWSN in general schools, irrespective of kind, category and degree of disability. The SSA supports a wide range of approaches, options and strategies for education of CWSN. This includes special training, in the form of school readiness programmes for CWSN, home based education (HBE) etc, the ultimate aim being mainstreaming of all CWSN in neighbourhood schools. Hence, the SSA has adopted a zero exclusion policy.

The SSA provides Rs. 3000/- per disabled child as a funding norm in a financial year to meet the special learning needs of such children, with Rs. 1000/- earmarked for the engagement of resource teachers. The interventions under the SSA for inclusive education include the identification of CWSN, functional and formal assessment, the special training of CWSN, the provision of aids and appliances, teacher training, the appointment of resource teachers, therapeutical support, barrier free access, community mobilization, parental counselling and escort/ transport allowance.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for 'Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS)' is being implemented from 2009-10 to enable CWSN to pursue further four years of secondary schooling (classes IX to XII), after completing eight years of elementary schooling, in an inclusive and enabling environment.