

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3768

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2013

VOUCHER SYSTEM

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the corporate sector has suggested for adopting voucher system and greater private participation in school education;
- (b) if so, the response of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the deficiencies in basic education can be met by the expansion of private schools;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to make up these deficiencies?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) Suggestions for adopting a voucher system in which Government pays for the voucher to enable children to study in private schools of their choice, have been made occasionally by some organisations/media articles. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act has been enacted recently in 2009 to provide free and compulsory education for all children in the age group of 6-14 years in a neighbourhood school, so that all children have a chance to access elementary education. In addition, for private unaided schools, the Act provides for 25% admissions in Class I or pre primary as the case may be, to children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups.

In order to provide universal elementary education, the government has invested in increasing school infrastructure so that there are 3,71,264 lakh government primary and upper primary schools in the country in 2012-13. There is almost universal enrolment at primary education level today due to increased access to schools. The Government, through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), provides for free text books, in-service teacher training, specific programmes for early grade reading, writing, mathematics etc. to improve the quality of learning.