

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3332
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009
EDUCATION IN MOTHER TONGUE
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a time-bound programme for imparting free and compulsory primary education to each and every child of the country in his/her mother tongue; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 has been enacted by Parliament to provide for free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years.

According to Article 350 A of the Constitution of India, "It shall be the endeavour of every State and of every local authority within the State to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother-tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups". The Government of India has consistently supported the view that Mother Tongue is the best medium of instruction at the primary stage. The National Curriculum Framework (2005) also endorses the use of Mother Tongue in primary education.

Section 29(2)(f) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 also provides that the medium of instruction shall, as far as practicable, be in child's Mother Tongue. The Act has not come into force.