

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:628

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013

DECLINE IN LEARNING LEVELS OF STUDENTS

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

- (a) whether there is a steady decline in the level of learning of students studying in Government schools located in the rural areas of the country over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor,
- (c) whether the Government has any policy to evaluate education being imparted in the Government schools located in the rural areas of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the funds allocated for construction and infrastructure development of primary schools during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the education standard of these schools located in the rural areas of the country?

**Answer**

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

- (a) to (c): No Madam. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), which uses a rigorous research methodology, conducts very detailed periodic national surveys of learning achievement of children in classes - III, V and VIII. Two rounds of these National Learners` Achievement Surveys have been completed by NCERT which have revealed improvements in the overall learning levels, even though achievements remain low. The findings of the third round conducted recently for class V also indicate that there is enhancement in the level achievement in most States. The reasons for low level achievement include, inter-alia, the non- availability of professionally trained teachers, an adverse Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) at the school level and gaps in infrastructural facilities in schools, etc. However, the scenario has been improving since the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 with increased funding and closer centre-state partnerships and initiatives.
- (d): The details of the funds allocated for the construction and infrastructure development of primary schools during the last three years and the current year, State-wise is at annexure.
- (e): The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) covers rural areas as well. The State Governments and Union Territory (UT) Administrations are supported on several interventions to improve the quality of elementary education, including 20-day in-service teacher training, distribution of free and improved textbooks, recruitment of additional teachers for better pupil-teacher ratios, academic support for schools and teachers through block and cluster resource centres, a continuous and comprehensive evaluation system, teacher and school grants for development of appropriate teaching-learning materials, etc.