

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1116

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2013

EDUCATION FOR WOMEN GIRLS

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the standard of education of women and girls in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the measures taken by the Government for improving the education of women and girls during the last three years;
- (d) the total funds sanctioned/released/spent during the said period, State-wise; and
- (e) the results achieved in this regard so far?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducts a National Achievement Survey to assess the learning level of children, including girls, for class III, V & VIII. The survey has shown that the average pupil achievement levels have increased, even though overall achievement is low.

(c) to (e): To encourage the participation of girls in elementary education, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides for the opening of schools in the neighborhood to make access easier for girls, the appointment of additional teachers including women teachers, free textbooks, free uniforms, separate toilets for girls, early childhood care and education centers in/near schools in convergence with ICDS programme etc., teachers' sensitization programmes to promote girls participation, gender-sensitive teaching learning materials including textbooks are the scheme of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas as residential upper primary schools. In addition, the Mid Day Meal Scheme benefits 10.44 crore children, enrolled in primary and upper primary classes in 12.12 lakh Government aided, local body, NCLP schools and Madarsas / Maqtabs supported under the SSA. Many studies have shown that the MDMS has helped in preventing classroom hunger, promoting school participation, and enhancing gender equity.

Under the Rashtriya Madyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), interventions to promote girls participation in secondary schools include the opening of new schools, the strengthening of existing schools, the appointment of teachers, the construction of residential quarters for teachers in remote/hilly areas, hostel facilities for girls, teacher sensitization programmes and separate toilet blocks for girls. In addition, a Girls' Hostel Scheme, the National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE), exemption from paying tuition fee in Kendriya Vidyalayas, and 33% reservation for girls in Navodaya Vidyalayas, are also being implemented.

Under the Saakshar Bharat Programme, out of 2.13 crore adults certified literates up to March, 2013 through assessment test conducted by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), 1.54 crore were female adults. The Census 2011 reveals a rise in female literacy rates from 53.67% in 2001 to 65.46% in 2011.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has also undertaken several schemes for the benefit of girls and women. These include the construction of Women Hostels Scheme, the Capacity Building of Women Managers in Higher Education Scheme, the Indira Gandhi Post Graduate Scholarship Scheme for Single Girl Child and a fellowship for single girl child for taking up research in science departments, which have been covered under the Basic Scientific Research (BSR) programme. To enhance the over-all enrolment in higher education and ensure quality, the Central Government has recently sanctioned a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA). Special emphasis is given in the scheme to the enrolment of girls in higher education. Rs. 47.05 crores have been sanctioned to 17 states for preparatory activities under RUSA.

The Funds released and expenditure incurred under the SSA and the RMSA programmes including the interventions for promotion of girls' education is at Annexure I & II respectively.

The enrolment of girls has been steadily increasing and the dropout rates declining at all stages of education.