

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1127

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2013

ENROLMENT OF GIRLS IN SCHOOLS

Das Shri Ram Sundar;Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni

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

- (a) the details of gender-wise enrolment of students in the primary, upper primary and secondary schools during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the incentives given or being given to the States to increase the enrolment of girls in schools;
- (c) whether the Government conducts any nation-wide exercise to evaluate and assess attendance levels of children in the elementary schools and if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the methodology adopted by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to check decline in enrolment of girls in schools and improve their literacy?

Answer

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

- (a): As per the Statistics of School Education brought out by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the State-wise and the gender-wise details of enrolment in primary, upper primary and secondary schools, during the latest three years 2008-09(Provisional), 2009-10(Provisional) and 2010-11(Provisional) are at Annex 1, 2 & 3 respectively.
- (b): The Government has been making consistent progress in meeting the goal of Universal Elementary Education through the implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Under the SSA, several interventions to promote education of girls are undertaken which include 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 toilet for girls, early childhood care and education centres in/ near schools in convergence with ICDS programmes etc., teachers' sensitization programmes to promote girls participation and gender-sensitive teaching-learning materials including textbooks and intensive community mobilization efforts to promote girls education. In addition, in educationally backward blocks with female literacy rates below the national average, the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Scheme of residential upper primary schools for girls and the National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) for the intensification of community mobilization and cluster based intervention have been undertaken for addressing the issues of girls education. A scheme for the construction & running of girls' hostel in secondary & higher secondary schools is also being implemented since 2009-10 in educationally backward blocks in the country to improve access and retention of the girl child.
- (c) : A study done by independent agencies on assessing the attendance levels of children in elementary schools was conducted in 2009 which showed that the attendance rates of girls at the primary level were 70.6% against an overall average of 68.5% and 78.7% at the upper primary levels against the overall average of 75.7%. To conduct the study, a sample of 20 States was selected. Number of primary and upper primary schools were selected from the rural and Urban areas of the different districts of these States on a sample basis.
- (d): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009, which became operational with effect from 1st April, 2010, provides that every child in the 6 to 14 age-group shall have a right to free and compulsory education till the completion of elementary education. The SSA Framework of Implementation has been revised to correspond with the provisions of the RTE Act 2009 and the SSA is being implemented in accordance with the norms and standards of the RTE Act to enhance the enrolment. The Mid Day Meal Scheme is also being implemented with a view to enhance enrolment and retention of children in school. Further, the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan which has been launched for universal access to secondary education, aims at removing gender and socio- economic disparities in access to education.