

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2223
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013
TRUANCY IN SCHOOLS
Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram

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

- (a) whether there are reports of the prevalence of large scale truancy in schools among children in the age group of 6 to 14 years age group;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto along with the reasons therefor indicating the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to address the problem; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): There is no such report of large scale truancy in schools among children in the age group of 6 to 14 years. However, the Ministry of Human Resource Development had conducted a study on students' and teachers' absenteeism in Primary and Upper Primary Schools in 2006-07 in 20 States (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, HP, J&K, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal) and it was reported that the average attendance of students at the Primary and the Upper Primary Stage was 68.5% and 75.7% respectively.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides for a variety of interventions to increase attendance viz. the opening of new schools as per norms laid by the State Government under the State RTE Rules, the provision of free text books and uniforms for children as per the prescribed norms, the appointment of adequate number of teachers in accordance with Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) laid down in the RTE Act 2009 and their redeployment, academic support through block and cluster resource centres for enhancing teacher capability to teach children, adequate classrooms and other facilities, including drinking water and toilets for all children as well as ramps for barrier free access to children with disabilities, school and teacher grants for the procurement of local material to enhance teaching-learning, grants under the innovation component of the SSA for girls/SC/ST/ urban deprived/minorities and computer aided learning. Accordingly, under the SSA, 1,95,003 primary schools, 1,09,451 upper primary schools, 17,91,860 additional classrooms, 2,29,840 drinking water facilities, 8,53,624 toilets, and 19,82,904 teachers have been sanctioned since the inception of the programme. The Mid-Day Meal Scheme has also had a beneficial impact on attendance levels.