

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2257

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013

QUALITY OF EDUCATION

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to evaluate the standard of education in the Government schools in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the other important aspects of the study and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to start 'Teacher Eligibility Test' in order to improve the standard of education;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of measures being proposed by the Government to improve the standard of education in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. The Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission has published an evaluation report of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme in June 2010. The study has brought out certain achievements in terms of access to education. More than 98% of the sampled rural habitations have access to elementary schools within 3 kms, while 93% of sampled slum children have access to neighbourhood schools within 1 km. The study also recommended the strengthening of school infrastructure, providing free uniforms, reducing non-teaching load on teachers, no- detention policy, constitution of School Management Committee with parents' representation etc. Many of the recommendations have already become mandatory norms under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 and the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Framework of Implementation, which provides for schools in neighbourhood, norms and standards for school infrastructure, distribution of uniforms to the girls and SC/ST and BPL boys, a ban on the engagement of teachers for non-educational purposes other than decennial population census, disaster relief duties or duties relating to elections to the local authority or the State Legislatures or Parliament, a ban on private tuitions or private teaching activities, the non-detention of children before completing Class VIII, continuous and comprehensive evaluation and the constitution of School Management Committees for all the government schools with three-fourth members from amongst parents, etc.

(c) & (d) : The RTE Act has notified the National Council of Teacher Education as the academic authority which has laid down minimum eligibility qualifications for teacher recruitment in elementary schools including passing a Teacher Eligibility Test (TET). So far, 26 State/UT governments have conducted TET for the recruitment of teachers at elementary level.

(e) : The steps taken to improve the standard of elementary education in the country, inter alia, include the improvement of infrastructural facilities and the sanction of new teacher posts in the Government schools, free textbooks to all the children in Government and Government aided schools, provision for in - service training up to 20 days every year to the teachers of the Government and aided schools, regular academic support to the teachers through Block Resource Centres and Cluster Resource Centres, school grant to all the Government and aided schools and teacher grant for relevant teaching aids to the teachers of these schools, libraries in the Government schools and provision for financial support for context specific quality enhancement interventions.

The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) scheme for improving secondary education provides for inter alia school infrastructure, additional class rooms, school laboratories, school libraries, and the appointment of additional teachers for better pupil teacher ratio, subject teaching of science, Maths and English subjects, in- service training of teachers, ICT enabled education, curriculum reforms etc.