

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:951

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2013

LEARNING ABILITIES OF STUDENTS

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

- (a) whether deficiencies have been noticed in the learning standards/abilities of a large number of students of Government schools in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has set any targets for improving the learning standards/ abilities of such students;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures proposed to be taken in this regard, both at primary and secondary levels, during the Twelfth Five Year Plan?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducts periodic National Achievement Surveys in three year cycles for classes III, V & VIII. Three rounds of National Achievement Survey have been conducted so far for class V and the third round for classes III and VIII are underway. The third round for class V of National Achievement Survey reveals improvement in the overall learning levels of children in Mathematics and Language in most States, though these overall learning levels are low.

In order to focus on improvements in learning levels, at the elementary level, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) funds are being targeted for quality interventions. The SSA supports additional teachers for maintaining the pupil-teacher ratio, teacher training, academic support through Block and Cluster resource centres, provision for free text books and specific programmes for reading, writing and mathematics in early classes as well as science and mathematics at upper primary level.

At the Secondary level, the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) supports State governments for teacher posts and in-service teacher training in order to improve quality.