

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3375

ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014

GIRLS EDUCATION

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the country continues to lag behind in education because of gender insensitivity, lack of transportation and lack of toilets for girls in schools; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to correct the same in future to attract the girls to education?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The enrolment of girls at the elementary, secondary and senior secondary level has been steadily increasing and the drop out rates declining at all stages of school education. The Gross Enrolment Ratio of girls at primary level rose from 85.9% in 2000-01 to 116.7% in 2010-11, at upper primary level it rose from 49.9% to 83.1% over the same period, while at the secondary level it rose from 45.3% in 2004-05 to 60.8% in 2010-11 and at the higher secondary level from 24.5% to 36.1% during the same period. This data has been collected and compiled under the annual School Education Statistics by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

The Government has always attached top priority to gender sensitization and to the integration of gender based concerns in school textbooks and curriculum. In order to ensure the greater participation of girls in elementary education, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has targeted interventions for girls which include the opening of schools in the neighbourhood to make access easier for girls, the appointment of additional teachers including women teachers, free textbooks, free uniforms, separate toilets for girls, teachers' sensitization programmes to promote girls' participation, gender- sensitive teaching-learning materials including textbooks. In addition the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) have been opened in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) where the female rural literacy is below the national average to provide for residential upper primary schools for girls.

For secondary education, under the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) interventions for girls include community mobilization at the habitation/village/urban slum level, scholarships, educational provisions such as textbooks, stationary, transport facilities, provision of lady teachers, construction of residential quarters for teachers in remote/ hilly areas/in areas with difficult terrain/hostel facilities for girls etc. Further, special coaching classes/remedial classes especially for educationally minority girls and children who are not doing academically well, teacher sensitization programme, separate toilet block for girls, girls activity room, etc. have also been provided for in the scheme.