

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3404
ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014
UNIFORM EDUCATION POLICY
Nagar Shri Surendra Singh

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to provide free and compulsory education and implement uniform education policy from primary class to intermediate level in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof as on date; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The Government has been making consistent progress in meeting the goals of Universal Elementary Education through the implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). 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 SSA is being implemented in accordance with the norms and standards of the RTE Act to enhance the enrolment and retention of children and to bridge gender gaps in elementary education. The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) was launched in 2009, with the objective to enhance access to secondary education and to improve its quality. New secondary schools (class IX & X) are set up by way of up-gradation of Upper –Primary Schools within a reasonable distance of any habitation. The other objectives include improving the quality of education imparted at the secondary level through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, removing gender, socio-economic and disability barriers, providing universal access to secondary level education by 2017, i.e., by the end of 12th Five Year Plan and achieving universal retention by 2020. Further, the Model School Scheme of this Ministry envisages the setting up of 6,000 model schools (with Classes VI-XII) – one in every block of the country as benchmark of excellence for providing quality education to talented rural children. The scheme has two modes of implementation, viz. (i) 3,500 model schools are to be set up in educationally backward blocks (EBBs) through State/UT Governments; and (ii) the remaining 2,500 model schools are to be set up under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode in blocks which are not educationally backward.

The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 (as modified in 1992), is based on an in-depth review of the educational situation and a national consensus. It implies that upto a given level, all students irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex have access to education of a comparable quality. It includes a common educational structure, a national curriculum framework and minimum levels of learning for each stage of education. The National Policy on Education enunciates a comprehensive framework to guide the development of education in its entirety. The Policy continues to be relevant and it has stood the test of time.