

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4018

ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014

QUALITY OF EDUCATION

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

(a) whether the National Council of Educational Research and Training had organized/proposes to organise a seminar on "School Curriculum: Policies, practices and Educational Issues among SAARC Nations" to provide a forum for sharing and exchanging efforts addressed at improving the quality of school education for mutual learning;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to enhance quality of school education?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) organized an International Seminar on School Curriculum: 'Policies and Practices in South Asian Countries' on 10-12 August 2009 at New Delhi. Fifty participants from India and twelve participants from other South Asian Countries participated in the Seminar. The objective of the seminar was to provide a forum for sharing and exchange of ideas and experiences related to curriculum policies and practices in South Asian Countries.

Discussions and sharing of practices on pedagogy and curricular issues took place in the three day seminar. The technical sessions were on the following themes:

- (i) Curriculum for quality education – Issues and challenges in curriculum development,
- (ii) Policy perspective and process of developing curriculum, syllabi and textbooks,
- (iii) Curriculum syllabi and textbooks of Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Languages, Arts and Aesthetics, Heritage Crafts, Health and Physical Education, Work and Education,
- (iv) Systemic conditions for implementation of Curriculum – infrastructure, teachers and examination reforms,
- (v) Curriculum and Social Justice: Issues related to Gender, Marginalized and Physically and Socially Challenged.

(c) The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) – 2005, developed by the NCERT places thrust on improving the quality in school education. The NCERT has brought out new syllabi and textbooks for all subjects across school stages, other learning resources such as supplementary reading material, laboratory manuals, education kits etc. and also revised its teacher education courses offered by Regional Institutes of Education. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been revised to correspond to the provisions of the RTE Act, 2009 in terms of the provision of additional teachers, classrooms and facilities in schools. Quality Interventions also include regular in-service teacher training, induction training for new teachers, training of untrained teachers, free text books, setting up of decentralized academic support institutions and focused programmes for improving learning outcomes experienced in early grades and Science and Mathematics. SSA also supports Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) and external pupil assessment surveys. In addition, the Teacher Education Scheme augments teacher capacity building programmes. The National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) has notified a mandatory teacher eligibility test for recruitment of teachers at elementary level, in order to improve standards of teacher intake. The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) programme covers secondary education and assists States/UTs in opening of new secondary schools (through up-gradation), additional classrooms, laboratories, toilets etc. as well as quality inputs like regular in-service teacher training and curriculum development. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has introduced a scheme of Continuous & Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) in a phased manner for improvement of quality in the schools and made the accreditation of schools mandatory for all the schools affiliated to it once in every five years.