

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4073

ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014

DEVELOPMENT OF READING HABITS

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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 (NCERT) has selected some cities for its pilot project to introduce graded self-reading series for children and establishing reading rooms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of the cities where reading rooms have been established;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to introduce graded self-reading project in other cities also;
- (e) if so, the locations identified therefor and the time by which they are likely to become functional; and
- (f) the steps taken to develop reading habits amongst the children?

**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) had conducted a pilot project regarding early literacy activities in the year 2008-09 in 561 schools in 5 blocks of Mathura District of Uttar Pradesh. Under this project, reading corners were established and graded reading series entitled "Barkha" (in Hindi) was provided in grades I and II of each of 561 schools. In addition, a training manual and other support material for teachers were also developed as part of this pilot scheme.

(c) : Some States (i.e., Uttarakhand, UP and Chandigarh) have initiated early literacy activities and some have developed materials with the support of the NCERT.

(d) to (f) : Early Literacy Programmes are a part of a comprehensive plan for quality improvement in primary education in most States and UTs, some of whom have adapted the NCERT's Early Literacy Programme as per their needs or designed their own. The NCERT's Early Literacy Programme has components such as graded readers, teacher training and assessment manuals as well as a selection of children's literature in Hindi and English for primary grades, that have been posted on their website, for the States/UTs to use or adapt according to their needs.