

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4208
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that around 2 percent of GDP is spent on education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is a need for rethinking on optimization of the allocation in a proper manner and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is a proposal that instead of funding schools, the Government may fund students directly to achieve better results; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): No, Madam. The public expenditure on education as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 4.17% (Provisional) during 2011-12 (Budget Estimates). The National Policy on Education, 1986, as modified in 1992, had also laid down that the investment on education be gradually increased to reach a level of 6% of the National Income as early as possible. The outlay of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) for the XII Five Year Plan is Rs.453728 crore (Rs.343028 crore for the Department of School Education & Literacy and Rs.110700 crore for the Department of Higher Education) as compared to the outlay of the XIth Plan, which was Rs.269873 crore (Rs.184930 crore for the Department of School Education & Literacy and Rs.84943 crore for the Department of Higher Education). This is an increase of 68%. This increase in central plan outlay for education represents a determined effort on the part of the Central Government for raising public spending on education towards the national goal of spending 6% of GDP for education.

(d) to (e): No, Madam. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 mandates free and compulsory education for all children in the age group of 6-14 years for which norms and standards have also been specified.