

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:830
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014
PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS
Kaswan Shri Rahul

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 53 per cent students of fifth standard and third standard are unable to read the books of second and first standard respectively;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any investigation has been made by the Government about such a poor performance of students and if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the effective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (c): The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) brought out annually by PRATHAM, a non-governmental organisation, expresses concern regarding the learning levels of children in schools in rural areas. However, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), which uses a rigorous research methodology, conducts very detailed periodic national surveys of learning achievement of children in classes – III, V and VIII. Three rounds of these National Learners' Achievement Surveys have been completed by the NCERT which have revealed improvements in the overall learning levels, even though achievements remain low. The reasons for low-level achievement include, inter- alia, the non- availability of professionally trained teachers and adverse Pupil Teacher Ratios (PTR) at the school level.

(d): Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the State Governments and UT Administrations are supported on several interventions to improve the quality of elementary education, including annual in-service teacher training, distribution of free and improved textbooks, recruitment of additional teachers for better pupil-teacher ratios, academic support for schools and teachers through block and cluster resource centres, a continuous and comprehensive evaluation system, teacher and school grants for development of appropriate teaching-learning materials, etc.