

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1544  
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2015  
Enrolment Rate in Rural Areas  
Selvam Shri V. Panneer

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

- (a) whether the Government data on rising enrolment rates in schools hides a critical fact that actual attendance rates in rural areas and among poor children is abysmally low;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the average rural attendance rate is merely 71.8 per cent as per Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) survey, 2013 and the percentage was 73.4 in 2010 against world-wide average attendance rate of 91 per cent according to UNICEF; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the necessary steps taken to improve enrolment rate as well as actual attendance?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a)&(b) Ministry of Human Resource Development commissioned a research study on students and teachers attendance in primary and upper primary schools. The study was conducted by the Indian Market Research Bureau (IMRB) in 26 States and National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi having sample size 325 to 400 schools in each State, and with a total sample size of 8760 schools from rural areas and 1185 schools from urban areas. The study has revealed that 81.7% children were found present in schools in rural areas in 2012-13.

(c) The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2013 brought out by PRATHAM, a non- governmental organization, has stated that the country is close to universal enrolment for the age group 6-14, with the percentage of children enrolled in schools at 96% and the percentage of out-of-school children remaining at 3.3%. The students attendance in rural areas shows slight decline especially in upper primary schools from 73.1% in 2012-13 to 71.8% in 2013-14.

(d) To increase enrolment rate as well as attendance, the Central Government under its flagship programmes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has adopted strategies inter-alia, for strengthening school infrastructure, improving pupil-teacher ratios, providing incentives like free textbooks, uniforms for eligible category of children, mid-day meal in schools, and strategies for promoting education of girls and children belonging to disadvantaged group.

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