

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3945  
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014  
PROMOTION OF LANGUAGES  
Hansdak Shri Vijay Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has worked out any plan to allocate equal time for the promotion of English and local languages at school level and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the guidelines issued to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and other Educational Boards in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the working hours of school teachers have been increased recently and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the increased working hours of school teachers have made their profession more strenuous and if so, the corrective measures taken in this regard; and
- (e) the measures taken to impact quality education in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b) Education is a subject on the Concurrent List of the Constitution and implementation of School Education lies primarily with the State Governments. Section 29 (f) of The Right of Children to Free and/ Compulsory Education Act, 2009, stipulates that "medium of instructions shall, as far as practicable, be in child's mother tongue". Further, Section 29 (1) of the RTE Act, provides for an academic authority to be notified by the appropriate Government for laying down curricula to be followed in various classes. National Policy on Education (NPE) lays down three languages formula from class VI to X.

(c) & (d) As per para 4 of the Schedule to the RTE Act 2009, there will be a minimum of forty five teaching hours, including preparation hours, per week for teachers for classes 1 to 8. No change in this is under consideration in view of nascent nature of the RTE Act implementation.

(e) 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 affiliated to it. The Board has laid down benchmarks and guidelines regarding the quality of education in schools and made the accreditation of schools mandatory for all the schools affiliated to it once in every five years