

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3990
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014
EDUCATION AMONG SLUM DWELLERS
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the lack of opportunities for both primary and secondary education for children living in the slums;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to initiate special schemes for improving education amongst children of slum dwellers including provision of books and stationery items to them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. With a view to addressing the special problems of children in urban slums, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has, since inception, provided for residential and non-residential schooling for urban deprived children, street children, working children, etc. The SSA norms provide for special training of out-of-school children to be mainstreamed into age appropriate class in regular schools, which is also available for urban deprived children. In addition, provision of residential facility for urban deprived children, homeless and street children in difficult circumstances and without adult protection, who require not merely day schooling, but also lodging and boarding facilities, is also available.

The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) is being implemented from 2009-10 with an aim to ensure access to a secondary school within a reasonable distance of any habitation, with special focus on children from disadvantaged sections including urban deprived children.

(c) to (e): SSA provides support for uniforms and textbooks for children, including for urban deprived children as per approved norms. SSA norms have also been revised to provide for transportation or escort facilities in urban areas, where due to lack of availability of land schools could not be built as per distance norms, or to enable children with disabilities to access schools.