

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:314

ANSWERED ON:30.07.2014

BARRIER FREE ACCESS FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED STUDENTS

Dastidar Dr. (Smt.) Kakoli Ghosh;Dastidar,Dr. (Smt.) Kakoli Ghosh;Mahajan Smt. Poonam

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

- (a) whether the Government has implemented dedicated schemes to cater to the diverse needs of the differently abled children at elementary and secondary levels education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such students in Government schools including Government-aided schools and the number of specially trained teachers recruited for them, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has issued guidelines/directives regarding barrier- free design and access in school buildings for the benefit of such students and if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated/released/utilised for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the action taken against the schools which have not been able to comply with these directives; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government for the benefit of differently abled school students?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 314 TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2014 ASKED BY DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR AND SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN REGARDING "BARRIER-FREE ACCESS FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED STUDENTS".

(a) to (e): Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) component of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) programme implemented by the government as centrally sponsored schemes, cover children with Special needs at Elementary and Secondary level, respectively.

SSA provides for elementary education to all children in the age group of 6-14 years including education for children with special needs (CWSN), and provides funds @ Rs.3000/- per child per year for the inclusion of CWSN through early identification and medical assessment, furnishing of aids and appliances as well as appropriate teaching learning materials and provision of resource teachers. State wise number of CWSN enrolled in Government and Government aided schools and the number of specially trained teachers, State and UT wise are at Annexure-I. The Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS), provides an opportunity for CWSN children to complete four years of secondary schooling (Class IX to XII) in an inclusive environment. State wise details of CWSN students covered under IEDSS scheme during 2013-14 and number of teachers are at Annexure-II.

SSA programme has issued detailed guidelines to States/UT's for barrier free access for CWSN in schools. Funds allocated to States/UTs for completion of civil works include provision for building ramps and toilets for CWSN and progress is reviewed in quarterly meetings by Government of India. A statement showing expenditure incurred for construction of ramps and toilets for CWSN during 2011-12 to 2013-14 and the allocation for 2014-15 are at Annexure-III. Under the IEDSS, provision is made to remove all architectural barriers in schools so that students with disabilities have access to facilities in schools. During the year 2013-14, 803 existing schools were upgraded to secondary schools and 1336 additional classrooms have been sanctioned with the provision of ramps and removal of other architectural barriers. A statement showing state-wise releases during 2010-11 to 2012-13 is at Annexure-IV. Coverage of schools with such architectural inputs in both schemes, is on an incremental basis, depending on availability of funds.