

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:239

ANSWERED ON:21.02.2006

QUALITY OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

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

- (a) whether the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) released by Planning Commission, the quality of elementary education is far behind the satisfactory level in rural India as reported in Times of India dated January 19, 2006;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the reaction of the Government thereon;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of elementary education in rural India;
- (d) whether the Government has recently conducted survey of the Sarva Shiksha schools and found students facing several problems in these schools as reported in the Times of India dated January 26, 2006;
- (e) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government has decided to monitor the problems of Sarva Shiksha schools itself; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (g): The findings of the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) are not much at variance with the Government's own database and information on the quality of education. The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) undertakes countrywide sample surveys on student achievement levels for particular classes regularly. The recently completed achievement survey for Class-V has indicated mean achievement levels of 46.7% in Mathematics and 58.3% in Language.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, to overcome the barriers hindering learning achievement levels of students, several activities have been undertaken to improve the quality of elementary education. This includes recruitment of 4.92 lakh additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, in service training of about 30 lakh teachers for a period of 20 days each year, free distribution of text books for primary and upper primary classes to about 5.02 crore SC, ST and girl students, regular academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 7422 Block Resource Centres and 70735 Cluster Resource Centres, regular evaluation of students and monitoring of school performance.

In addition, the Government of India with the help of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, has recently operationalised a quarterly quality monitoring system to monitor, inter-alia, student attendance, teacher availability in schools, classroom practices and academic supervision provided by Cluster and Block Resource Centres to schools and teachers.