

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 608
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH FEBRUARY, 2017**

Socially Disadvantaged Students

608. SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any scheme to nurture Education among the orphan and HIV affected children residing in different child care institutions and orphanages;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to financially support to promote the education at all levels and for the securing of the future and rehabilitation of such children along with scholarships for higher education among other benefits; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)**

(a) to (d): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides that every child in the age group of 6 to 14 years shall have a right to free and compulsory education in a neighbourhood school till completion of elementary education. Section 4 of the RTE Act provides for special training for age appropriate admission of out of school children. Those children who have missed out certain academic years either because they were never enrolled in school or dropped out of school, have a right to special training in residential and non residential mode, subsequently to be mainstreamed in formal schools in age appropriate class.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides assistance to State Governments and UTs to ensure free and compulsory elementary education for all children. SSA addresses the issue of education of children in difficult circumstances by encouraging States' efforts to accommodate their voices in planning, implementation and monitoring of interventions and strategies. SSA has an innovation head under which States undertake interventions for urban deprived children.

Strategies such as providing residential schools and hostels, transport and escort facility, seasonal hostels, special training centres at worksite, migration cards, back to school camps etc. are being implemented and have proved to be successful for the care of these children.

The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) scheme was launched in 2009 and the objectives include reducing dropout rate of students and improving the retention rate at the secondary stage. The scheme provides for improving access by approving new secondary schools and by providing additional classrooms, science laboratory, library, computer rooms, art/craft/culture rooms, toilets, drinking water facilities etc. in new secondary schools and existing secondary schools. Interventions like survey and identification of out of school children, awareness programme, bridge courses, special teaching for learning enhancement etc. have also been supported under RMSA.

Department of Higher Education is not implementing any scholarship scheme exclusively for orphan and HIV affected children. However, it is implementing the 'Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students' wherein financial assistance is provided to those eligible students who are in the top 20th percentile of the class 12 result from a particular State Education Board and having family income of less than Rs. 6.0 lakh per annum.
