

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1247
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11th February, 2019**

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

1247. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

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

- (a) the measures taken by the Government to improve the quality of education under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA);
- (b) whether the Government has adopted any mechanism to evaluate the progress of various objectives of the scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the targeted achievements under the scheme during the last five years; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to implement the scheme particularly in rural regions of the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. SATYA PAL SINGH)**

(a) to (c): The erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was under implementation since 2000-2001 for universalization of elementary education in consultation and coordination with States/UTs throughout the country. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan included several interventions for improvement of quality of education like; in-service training of teachers and schools heads, conduct of achievement surveys at National and State level, composite school grant to every school for providing a conducive learning environment, provision of textbooks and school uniforms as per Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA), remedial teaching for academically weaker students, ICT and digital initiatives, School Evaluation, Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat (PBBB) and Performance Indicators for Teachers (PINDICS). Besides, amendment of Section 23(2) of the RTE Act to extend the period for training of untrained in-service elementary teachers to 31st March, 2019 and amendment of Central rules to the RTE Act, 2009 to include reference on class-wise, subject-wise Learning Outcomes, have also been made to improve the quality of education under SSA.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of SSA has an inbuilt concurrent evaluation and monitoring system. The Ministry of Human Resource Development convenes periodic meetings with State Education Ministers and Secretaries to review the programmes. Educational data is collected through a Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) every year to assess the progress. A National Achievement Survey (NAS) across all States and UTs was conducted on 13.11.2017 to assess the learning achievement of students of classes 3, 5 and 8. The status of these evaluations and monitoring is placed in the public domain on the Ministry's website. Further, an All India Performance Audit on Implementation of RTE Act, 2009 was conducted by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG) for the period extending from 2010-11 to 2015-16 and accordingly Report No. 23 of 2017 has been laid on the Table of the Parliament on 21.07.2017. An independent third party evaluation of the SSA Scheme was also conducted in 2017-18. It has pointed out that SSA achieved considerable success in universalizing access and strengthening of infrastructure in schools. It has appreciated the enhanced focus of SSA on quality of education in recent years.

(d) & (e): Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was operational from the financial year 2000-2001 till 2017-18. The programme was conceived as additional support to the States and UTs to achieve Universal Elementary Education available, accessible and affordable. Subsequent to the enactment of the RTE Act, 2009 by Parliament, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan guidelines were revised to harmonize with RTE provisions in the year 2010. Its overall goals included universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in education and enhancement of learning levels of children.

Under SSA financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for undertaking various activities to increase the access of school children which includes opening of new schools, construction of schools & additional classrooms, opening of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV), and setting up of residential schools/hostels.

As reported by States/UTs in their Annual Work Plan and Budget, 2018-19, 97.15% of habitations in the country are covered by primary schools and 96.49% of habitations are covered by upper primary schools. The habitations that remain uncovered are mostly small or sparsely populated in difficult areas where opening of school is not feasible.

Since the inception of SSA in 2001 till 2017-18, sanction has been given for construction of 3,12,747 school buildings, 18,89,689 additional classrooms, 2,40,564 drinking water facilities, 3,99,351 Boys toilets and 5,22,398 girls toilets. States and UTs have reported construction of 2,95,382 school buildings, 18,08,452 additional classrooms, 2,33,956 drinking water facilities 3,76,857 boys toilets and 5,10,210 girls toilets as on 30.09.2018. Besides, till date 5970 KGBV, 333 residential schools and 677 hostels have also been approved. The scheme is implemented throughout the country irrespective of caste, religion or area.
