

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2469
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9.5.2016**

Academic Performance of Students

2469. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to issue orders under the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2010 to ensure that the students meet the Minimum Standards of Academic Performance (MSAP), prescribed by a school in all subjects from class V to VIII before being promoted to class IX;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has sought views of the Ministry of Law and Justice and eminent educationists in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the response of the said Ministry and eminent educationists thereto; and
- (d) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the decline in the quality of education, particularly at the elementary level?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (c): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 has been enacted for universalising elementary education in the country for children between ages of 6-14 years. Section 29(2)(h) of the RTE Act, 2009, stipulate a Comprehensive and Continuous Evaluation(CCE) of child's understanding of knowledge and his or her ability to apply the same.

Additionally, under Section 29 (1) of the RTE Act, 2009, the Central Government has notified the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) as the academic authority for development of the curriculum and evaluation procedure. The NCERT has developed detailed guidelines on CCE which has been circulated to all States/UTs. In consultation with NCERT and Ministry of Law & Justice, this Ministry is examining ways to develop a suitable academic approach on the maintenance of Minimum Standards of Academic Performance for classes 5-8.

(d): Quality education and improvement in learning levels is one of the key objectives of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) which is a centrally sponsored scheme. Under SSA, the Government advises the State Governments to ensure the pupil-teacher ratio, as stipulated in the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

Further, the State Governments and UT Administrations are supported on several interventions under SSA to improve teaching standards, including regular in-service teachers' training, induction training for newly recruited teachers, training of all untrained teachers to acquire professional qualifications through Open Distance Learning (ODL) mode, recruitment of additional teachers for improving pupil-teacher ratios, academic support for teachers through block and cluster resource centres, continuous and comprehensive evaluation system to equip the teacher to measure pupil performance and provide remedial action wherever required, and teacher and school grants for development of appropriate teaching-learning materials, etc. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 specifies statutory duties and responsibilities of teachers and lays down the minimum qualifications for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in elementary schools. Further, Central Government has been taking up the issue of redeployment of teachers with States/UTs in various forums and review meetings.

The NCERT conducts periodic national surveys of learning achievement of children in classes – III, V, VIII, and X. These reveal improvement in learning achievement levels of pupils, in various subjects.

Through SSA, the Central Government supports States/UTs on early grade reading, writing & comprehension, and early Mathematics programmes through a sub-programme namely 'Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat' (PBBB) in classes I and II. Further the Government has launched Rashtriya Aavishkar Abhiyan (RAA), inter-alia, as a sub-component of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), to motivate and engage children of the age group from 6-18 years in Science, Mathematics and Technology through observation, experimentation, inference drawing, model building, etc. both through inside and outside classroom activities.

The Central Government has launched the 'Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching' in December, 2014 with a vision to comprehensively address all issues related to teachers, teaching, teacher preparation, professional development, curriculum design, research in pedagogy and developing effective pedagogy.

In the recent Meeting of Education Ministers on Teachers' Education held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 8.2.2016 several steps for improvement of the quality of education were discussed. These include internship for Teacher Education Programmes in Government Schools; development of an accreditation framework for Teacher Education Institutions and volunteerism involving retired teachers.
