

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.69  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2016**

**Vidyanjali Programme**

69. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:  
SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:  
SHRI K. PARASURAMAN:  
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:  
SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:  
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:  
SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched 'Vidyanjali', a school volunteer programme recently and if so, the details thereof including the salient features and its aims and objectives;
- (b) the names of the States that will pilot the said programme;
- (c) the extent to which the same has achieved success and the time by which the said programme is likely to cover all the States in the country; and
- (d) the steps taken/ being taken by the Government to inculcate reading habits among children and reading culture at schools and community level in the country?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI. PRAKASH JVADEKAR)**

(a): Yes, Madam. 'Vidyanjali', a School Volunteer programme was launched on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2016. It is an initiative to enhance community and private sector involvement in Government schools to strengthen implementation of co-scholastic activities through the services of volunteers.

Volunteers under the programme will offer their services to Government schools through an online portal developed by MyGov.in. The Volunteers will conduct one or more co-scholastic activities with children such as reading to children; helping children with creative writing; public speaking; play acting and preparing story books.

(b): The programme is being piloted across 21 States/UTs namely Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu &

Kashmir, Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

(c): As per the data made available with the website Mygov.in, so far, 2005 schools have registered with the Vidyanjali Application (App) while, 2084 Apps. have been downloaded and 1216 volunteers have logged in and registered for 815 activities in various schools. The program is voluntary in nature and States/UTs that are willing may join the programme.

(d): The Ministry of Human Resource Development has taken many steps to inculcate reading habits among children and reading culture at school and community level in the country. The Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat (PBBB) was launched in August, 2014 as a sub-programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) with the aim to ensure quality at the foundational years of schooling. The objectives of the programme are to promote early reading and writing with comprehension skills in children, and also basic numeracy skills. The activities under PBBB include having dedicated teachers for classes I and II, setting up of reading corners in classrooms, providing libraries in schools, having dedicated period for reading in the school time table and availability of a variety of reading material in the form of supplementary readers for children.

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