

The Central Government through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has introduced several measures to improve the quality of elementary education through (i) introducing the 'Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat', a foundational programme to improve early reading and writing with comprehension and early mathematics; (ii) a focussed programme on strengthening Science and Maths learning at the upper primary level; (iii) sharing an exemplar on continuous comprehensive evaluation in elementary education developed by the NCERT; (iv) notifying learning outcomes by class and stage of education brought out by the NCERT; (v) conducting the 3rd round of National Achievement Surveys for Class III, V and VIII to track student learning outcomes; (vi) provide funds and technical guidance to states for annual refresher training of teachers and (vii) provide academic support to teachers and schools through Block and Cluster Resource Centres.

#### **Learning levels of children in rural areas**

2375. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the learning levels of children in schools in rural areas is very low;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), conducts detailed periodic national surveys of learning achievements of children in classes-III, V and VII/VIII, across the country including rural areas in intervals of three years. Three rounds of National Learners' Achievement Surveys have been completed by the NCERT which have revealed improvements in the overall learning levels in various subjects in these classes, even though learning levels remain low.

#### **Review of RMSA**

2376. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) has been reviewed recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the review done;
- (c) the findings made in the review; and

(d) the suggestions made in these findings?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) The implementation of RMSA is regularly reviewed by the Government of India, through six monthly Joint Review Missions (JRM), by a group of experts in the field of education and education related areas, both from India and from external development agencies, the World Bank and Department for International Development, United Kingdom.

(b) The last such JRM was conducted from 4th to 12th August, 2014 with the objective of reviewing progress in the implementation of the RMSA and, with a particular focus on assessing institutional capacities, Planning and Financial Management, information and communication technology based interventions and in-service support to teachers.

(c) The review highlighted *inter alia*, the need for synergies with 'locally based teacher training institutions' to augment institutional capacities as also to address quality of in-service support to teachers, to promote sharing and use of data in Planning and strengthening of existing State management structures to ensure effective utilization of resources.

(d) Suggestions based on the review include preparation of 3 year plans for quality improvement by the States, review and strengthening of core staffing structure and use of real time data for decision making at all levels.

#### **State specific education system**

2377. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government recognizes that school education has to be state specific in order to maintain and protect social, cultural and geo-physical identities of people in various parts of the country;

(b) whether it was with this objective that originally education was included in the State list;

(c) whether, for this reason, any national policy on school education should provide only guidelines for curriculum; and

(d) whether the committee constituted by the Ministry should be advised to work within such contours?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (d) The Constitutional Amendment of 1976, which