

Affairs specifically carry out the special interventions for empowerment of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. The items directly concerning the welfare of SCs/STs comprise of affirmative action including reservations in Private Sector and legislation for conferring ownership rights in respect of minor forest produce, rights of tribal and other forest dwelling communities over mineral & water sources in the forest areas and other socio-economic and environmental issues.

On the issue of affirmative action including reservations for SC/ST youth in the Private Sector, the dialogue is continuing with the Industrial Organisations. In order to redress the problems of ownership rights and eviction in respect of the tribal communities and other forest dwelling communities dependent on forests, "The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006" has been enacted.

### **Entry of foreign law firms**

†\*396. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give permission to foreign legal firms to function in India;

(b) if so, the conditions laid therefor and the provisions under which such permission would be given; and

(c) the opinion of the All India Bar Association in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India has consulted the Bar Council of India, the statutory body created under the Advocates Act, 1961.

### **Shortage of teachers in schools**

†\*397. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the report

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of Seventh All India Education Survey which states that there is a shortage of teachers in the schools throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the report and the measures taken to meet the shortage of teachers?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Seventh All India School Education Survey (7th AISES) conducted by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) with September 30, 2002 as the reference date has provided data about Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) at primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary levels of education which were found to be 32.71, 28.34, 27.25 and 28.55 respectively at National level.

Education is a subject in the Concurrent List. The recruitment of teachers in schools of States/UTs is controlled by the respective State Governments/ UT Administrations. In order to improve PTR at primary and upper primary levels in States with adverse PTR, a total of 10.12 lakh teachers have been sanctioned under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

#### **Funding pattern for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan**

7368. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:  
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARJIA:

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

(a) whether the new funding pattern of 60:50 against 75:25 so far between the Centre and the States for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has seriously affected and failed promise on education;

(b) if so, whether many States have shown their inability to meet the new funding pattern;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry has already prepared a proposal for approval of the Cabinet for retaining the 75:25 funding pattern;

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(e) whether States opposed this move during the State Education Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi?