

### Children dropping out of schools

979. SHRI B.S. GANNADESIKAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 8 per cent of children are still dropping out of schools and over 17 per cent during the transition from primary to upper classes as per a report by a constituted body for checking the trend of Universal Elementary Education;

(b) whether the report prepared by National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) also underlined that the quality of education is not satisfactory;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to achieve the goal of Universal Primary Education and also to fill up vacancies of teachers across the country as most of the schools are having single teachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (d) National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) collects Elementary School Statistics annually through the District Information System for Education (DISE) from all districts in the country. DISE data reveals that transition rates from primary to upper primary schools have improved from 81.13 in 2006-07 to 82.68 in 2007-08. The annual average dropout rates as per DISE have decreased from 8.61 in 2006-07 to 8.02 in 2007-08. The percentage of single teacher schools has reduced from 11.76% in 2006-07 to 9.71% in 2008-09. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a flagship programme for the universalisation of elementary education. A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under SSA for reducing dropout rates and improving quality of education. The interventions include, *inter alia*, opening of new schools and improving school infrastructure, recruiting additional teachers, providing annual school and teacher grants, conducting regular training of teachers, providing academic support to teachers, and free text-books to children. In addition, SSA provides interventions for community support for children who are dropouts, promotes education of girls, children with special needs and children from disadvantaged groups.

### IIITs

980. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether locations of 20 Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIITs) have been finalized; and

(b) if so, whether they include the State of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) No, Sir.