

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Government has accorded high priority to education sector. During Eleventh Five Year Plan, Ministry of Human Resource Development have been allocated of Rs. 2,69,873 crore (Rs. 1,84,930 crore for the Department of School Education and Literacy and Rs. 84,943 crore for the Department of Higher Education). This constitutes 19.4% of the total Eleventh Five Year Plan allocation as compared to 7.7% in the Tenth Five Year Plan. This increased outlay is meant for creating new institutions, strengthening existing institutions and improving the quality of education. The amount allocated for elementary, secondary, adult and higher education during Eleventh Five Year Plan is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Sector	Eleventh Plan Allocation
Elementary Education	1,25,380
Secondary Education	53,550
Adult Education	6,000
Higher (including Technical and others) Education	84,943
TOTAL:	2,69,873

Status of Education Report, 2009

†4721. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), 2009 which is based on the status of school education being given in rural schools reveals that the level of 50 per cent students in rural schools of the country is three classes below to their standard;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the plan of Government to uplift the level of education; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that tendency of getting private tuition is continuously on the rise and if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is brought out annually by Pratham, a Non Governmental Organisation. ASER-2009 presents certain positive findings, including *interalia* that (a) 96% of children in the 6-14 age group in rural India are enrolled in schools, (b) the percentage of out-of-school children in the 6-14 age group has dropped from 4.3% in 2008 to 4% in 2009, (c) the percentage of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

out-of-school girls in the 11-14 age group has dropped from 7.2% in 2008 to 6.8% in 2009, (d) the percentage of children in Class I who can recognize letters has increased from 65.1% in 2008 to 68.8% in 2009. ASER also points to certain areas of concern, including that the percentage of children in class 5 who can read at class 2 level is around 50%.

Government is committed to improving the quality of elementary education through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Under SSA, 10.22 lakh additional teachers have been recruited to improve the pupil teacher ratio, teachers are provided annual in-service training, and textbooks are provided for children. Government has also enacted the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. The RTE Act prohibits teachers from private tuition or private teaching activity. It also prohibits deployment of teachers for any non-educational purposes other than decennial population census, disaster relief duties or duties relating to election to local authority, or State Legislature or Parliament. This will ensure that teachers have more time for actual classroom transaction for quality improvement.

Basic facilities in elementary schools

4722. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any survey on availability of basic facilities in elementary schools in the country during the last two years;
- (b) if so, the results thereof, State-wise;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether most of Government elementary schools in the country, particularly, in Himachal Pradesh do not have toilets and drinking water facilities; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by Government to address the problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Under the District Information System for Education (DISE), data on basic facilities in elementary schools is collected annually. As per DISE 2008-09, 73.44% elementary schools have pucca buildings, 87.77% have drinking water facilities and 66.84% have common toilet facilities. The details of availability of school buildings, common toilet, girls toilet and drinking water facilities in Government elementary schools are given in Statement (See below).

(d) and (e) In Himachal Pradesh, as per DISE 2008-09, 94.10% schools have drinking water facilities and 50.86% schools have toilet facilities. Since inception of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), 2312 drinking water and 10463 toilet facilities have been sanctioned in elementary schools of Himachal Pradesh.