

Rural-urban divide in education

4701. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the rising rural-urban divide in the field of education;
- (b) if so, the comparative details thereof during the last three years, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to fill the rural-urban divide in education; and
- (d) the funds allocated and utilized for the purpose during the last three years, rural and urban area-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 (as modified in 1992) provides for a National System of Education, which implies that upto a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. It also accords priority for improvement of the standard of education at all levels for children living in rural and urban areas.

The NPE recognizes that the rural areas, with poor infrastructure services, will not get the benefit of trained and educated youth, unless rural-urban disparities are reduced and determined measures are taken to promote diversification and dispersal of employment opportunities. Pursuant to this, a large number of schemes/programmes are being implemented throughout the country which predominantly address the educational including rural areas. The Eleventh Plan envisages implementation of a centrally sponsored scheme for Universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage (SUCCESS) with the objective to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons by providing a secondary school within five kilometers of every habitation. It also envisages setting up of six thousand good quality secondary schools at Block level, at the rate of one school in each Block, which will serve as benchmark of excellence for other schools in the area.

- (d) Funds under various Schemes/Programmes of the Ministry are not allocated on rural-urban basis.

Shortcomings in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

4702. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of measures taken to overcome the shortcomings in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme;

(b) whether it is a fact that the quality of teaching under SSA is sub-standard and the same needs improvement and if so, the steps taken to improve the standard of teaching;

(c) the details of measures taken to contain drop-out rate of children at primary level; and

(d) the details of measures taken to improve school infrastructure as well as the pupil-teacher ratio to achieve the objectives of SSA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) For effective implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), a rigorous monitoring system is in place, which includes submission of monthly/quarterly progress reports, periodic review meetings with States, field level monitoring through reputed Institutes of Social Sciences and University Departments of Education, as also independent Review Missions on programme progress. In addition, statutory and independent annual financial audits and concurrent financial reviews are conducted under SSA. This ensures that there are sufficient checks and balances in place to address shortcomings.

(b) To improve the quality of education academic resource support is provided through Block Resource Centres and Cluster Resource Centres. There is also provision for in-service teacher training to enhance teaching capacity.

(c) To address the problem of drop-out, 3,00,895 new schools have been opened, 2,42,608 school buildings have been constructed, 10.22 lakh new teachers recruited, 2563 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, enrolling girls from disadvantaged category and weaker sections, have been established. Mid-Day Meal is also provided to children in classes 1-8 in Government, Government aided and local body schools.

(d) To improve school infrastructure 2,42,608 school buildings and 10,33,719 additional classrooms have been constructed and 1,88,198 drinking water facilities provided under SSA.

Opening of colleges

4703. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has chosen any districts for opening colleges where the enrolment is not satisfactory and/or for any other reasons;

(b) if so, the names of the States and districts chosen for the purpose;

(c) the colleges opened, so far, if any;

(d) when was the intention to open such colleges announced; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The Government has on 21.1.2010 approved a