

Opening of primary schools

1776. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of primary schools that have been made operational since the passing of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill last year;
- (b) the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken or being taken by Government for effective implementation of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act) enacted by the Parliament to provide for free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years was published in the Gazette of India on 27th August, 2009 for general information. However, the Central Government has appointed 1st day of April, 2010 as the date on which the RTE Act shall come into force. Therefore, the question regarding number of primary schools made operational as per the provisions of the RTE Act does not arise.

(c) The Government has taken several steps for effective implementation of the Act including the following:-

- (i) At the instance of the Government, the NUEPA has prepared estimates of capital and recurring expenditure required for implementation of the Act.
- (ii) The "Model" Rules under the Act have been circulated to the State Governments so that the same could be adopted/adapted by them while formulating the Rules under the RTE Act.
- (iii) Several consultations have been held with various stakeholders, including the State Governments regarding implementation of the Act.

Construction of school buildings under SSA in Himachal Pradesh

1777. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that a large number of schools are running in tents and in open ground in the country, particularly in Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, whether Government has set up any target for construction of school buildings under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) during the year 2009-10;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;