

(d) if so, whether such acts of some State Governments are denying minority students access to better education; and

(e) if so, the corrective steps Union Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Human Resource Development does not operate any Central scholarship scheme in which the State Governments have to share the expenditure. The issue of non-disbursal of the scholarships by the State Governments does not arise in respect of the Central scholarship schemes of this Ministry.

#### **Literacy targets**

3152. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and percentage of illiterate children by end of year 2009-10;

(b) whether with implementation of Right to Education Act, 2009, Government is going to achieve literacy targets in terms of percentage by end of Eleventh Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government proposes to allocate funds to the tune of 6 per cent of GDP for carrying out purpose of Act;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government is aware that literacy targets are getting affected due to regional, social and gender reasons; and

(g) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 has come into force *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2010. The implementation of the Act would lead to quantitative and qualitative improvement in the universalization of elementary education in the country, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) shall be the main vehicle for implementation of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. SSA programme provides for Universalisation of Elementary Education amongst children in the age group 6-14 years in a time bound manner. The National Sample Survey conducted by MHRD through SRI-IMRB has indicated 81 lakh out of school children in age group 6-13 years, who represent children of difficult to reach category.

(d) and (e) On the request of Government, the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) has prepared financial estimates for Rs. 1,71,778 crores for the period 2010-11 to 2014-15 for implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

(f) and (g) To ensure that SSA programme is implemented with priority in districts which are deficient in education, districts have been classified as special focus districts on the parameters of PS:UPS ratio >3:1 (138 districts — classified under category A), districts with a gap of additional classrooms >3000 (38 districts — classified under category B). These districts are entitled to enhanced civil works allocation for closing of their infrastructure gaps. Districts have also been categorized as Special Focus District Category C and D, covering districts with more than 20,000 out of school children, low Retention Rate (<60%), and gender gap of more than 10% at primary and more than 20% at upper primary level, and districts with a large population of disadvantaged social groups. There are 109 ST, 61 SC, 141 minority, 34 naxalite affected and 94 border area districts in this category.

Literacy is a pre-requisite for socio-economic development. Under Saakshar Bharat Programme, at least 70 million non-literates will be made literate to achieve 80% literacy by 2012. To reduce gender disparity in literacy from 21% to 10%, 60 million out of the total target of 70 million will be women. To minimize social disparities, within the overall target, 14 million Scheduled Caste (10 million women + 4 million men), 8 million Scheduled Tribe (6 million women + 2 million men) and 12 million beneficiaries belonging to minorities (10 million women + 2 million men) will be covered.

#### **Shortage of school teachers**

3153. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of school teachers in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there are enough number of teachers to implement the Right to Education Act; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) There are around 5.23 lakh teacher positions in the State sector which are vacant at elementary level across the country, and an additional 5.08 lakh teachers are estimated to be required to ensure implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. Teacher shortage is on account of slow recruitment of teachers by the States, imbalances in teacher deployment and low teacher education capacity in some of the States.

#### **Agreement with US in education sector**

3154. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India has entered into an agreement with United States in education sector in the last two years;