

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) For the purposes of improving quality of higher education and preventing and prohibiting malpractices by all higher educational institutions in the country, except the institutions engaged mainly in agricultural education and research, Government has introduced two Bills in Parliament, namely, (i) The National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010, and (ii) The Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical Educational Institutions, Medical Educational Institutions and Universities Bill, 2010. These two Bills respectively provide for making accreditation mandatory for the purposes of improving quality and for prohibiting and punishing unfair practices by higher educational institutions.

Measures to check drop-out of students in schools

2184. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the drop-out rates at primary and secondary level schools as per latest information available with the Ministry;

(b) whether Government has carried out an exercise examining these causes, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government intends to take specific measures to deal with problem of teacher absenteeism in primary and secondary schools;

(d) whether Government thinks it appropriate to take specific measures to reduce drop-out rates among Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students in primary and secondary schools, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government thinks it necessary to extend Mid-Day Meal Scheme to Madarsa schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per information available with the Ministry, the dropout rates for the year 2007-08 at primary (classes I-V) and secondary (classes I-X) levels are 25.55 and 56.81 per cent. The socio-economic and school related factors mainly affect dropouts.

(c) The MHRD conducted a Study on "Student and Teachers attendance" through Educational Consultant India Limited (Ed. CIL) in 2006-07 in 20 States. Findings of the study were shared with the States at various forums requesting them to take steps to monitor teachers' and students' attendance closely. Measures taken by the State governments, *inter-alia*, include close supervision of schools by block and cluster resource centers and Village Education Committees and by discouraging officers for using teachers for non-teaching work such as conducting survey for other Government departments.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 which has come into force with effect from 1st April, 2010 provides that no teacher shall be deployed for any non-educational purposes other than the decennial population census, disaster relief duties, or duties relating to elections to the local authority or the State Legislative Assemblies or Parliament.

(d) A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for reducing drop out rates. These include, *inter-alia*, strengthening of schools, improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, provision of annual school grants, regular training of teachers and regular academic support of teachers etc. In addition, interventions under SSA aim at building community support, special provisions to promote education of girls through Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) and National Programme for Education of Girls for Elementary Level (NPEGEL) as well as children with special needs. The Mid-day-Meal programme also complements the strategy to reduce dropout rates.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) envisages *inter-alia*, opening of new schools in SC/ST/Minority concentration areas including upgradation of Ashram Schools to secondary schools, special focus on SC/ST/Minority during micro planning, etc. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Incentive to girls for Secondary Education" a sum of Rs. 3000/- is deposited in the name of all eligible girls belonging to SC/ST, who enroll in class IX in Government, Government aided or local bodies schools. Under the scheme of Girls' Hostel, 50 percent seats are meant for girls belonging to SC/ST/OBC/minorities.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years. The Act came into

force from 1st April, 2010. Section 4 of the Act provides that unenrolled and drop out children shall be admitted in age appropriate class and provided Special Training. They shall have the right to free education till completion of elementary education even after fourteen years.

(e) The Mid-Day-Meal scheme presently covers children studying in Madarasas/Maktabas supported under SSA as Government Aided Schools.

ICT in schools scheme

†2185. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in schools during last three years alongwith current year, year-wise;

(b) the funds out of above utilized by each State/Union Territory;

(c) the number of students who attained computer literacy under this programme during the said period, year-wise and State/Union Territory-wise;

(d) whether Government has received any complaint that funds allocated for the said purpose under this scheme are not being used; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The State/UT wise details of funds released and utilised under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Information & Communication Technology in Schools" during the last three years and the current year, are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) The level of proficiency in computer literacy depends on the curriculum prescribed in each State or system of schools. All students of classes IX to XII in the schools covered under the scheme form the target group for computer literacy. However, since there is no common computer proficiency test, the exact number of students who have attained proficiency is not available.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi