

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress achieved by Government over this proposal finalized in the year 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Government has set up eight new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in the country at Hyderabad, Patna, Jodhpur, Bhubaneswar, Ropar, Gandhinagar, Indore and Mandi. Six of the eight new IITs at Hyderabad, Patna, Jodhpur, Bhubaneswar, Ropar, Gandhinagar have started functioning from the academic year 2008-09 and the IITs at Indore and Mandi have started functioning from the academic year 2009-10.

During Eleventh Five Year Plan, seven new IIMs were proposed to be established in the country, out of which Rajiv Gandhi Indian Institute of Management (RGIIM), Shillong has started functioning from the academic year 2008-09 and IIMs at Rohtak, Ranchi, Raipur and Tiruchirappalli have started functioning from the academic year 2010-11. MM, Udaipur and Kashipur would become functional from 2011-12.

The Central Government has established 16 Central Universities under the Central Universities Act, 2009 in each State without any such University (except Goa) and two Central Universities in the State of Jammu and Kashmir (one each in Kashmir Division and Jammu Division in lieu of an IIM for the State). All these Universities except Central University of Jammu have started their academic programmes from temporary premises, pending allotment of land and development of permanent campus.

Further, the Central Government has also identified 14 cities in the country for establishment of Innovation Universities targeted to be World Class.

Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)

†570. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 'Annual Status of Education Report-2010' states that the condition of education in Government schools situated in rural areas is very deplorable;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government agrees to the comments given in the report regarding the deplorable condition of education;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the planning of Government to improve the standard of education in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Annual Status

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of Education Report (ASER) is brought out annually by PRATHAM, a non-governmental organization. The ASER (Rural) - 2010 (provisional) presents certain positive findings, including that 96.5% of children in the 6 to 14 age group are enrolled in schools in rural areas, the percentage of out-of-school children in the 6 to 14 age group has dropped from 4% in 2009 to 3.5% in 2010 and the percentage of out-of-school girls in the 11-14 age group has dropped from 6.8% in 2009 to 5.9% in 2010. The RTE indicators reported in the ASER reveal that 72% of all visited schools had drinking water facilities, 90% of them had toilets with 70% of them having the facility of separate girls' toilets and 62% of the visited schools had playgrounds. ASER 2010 mentions that 55.8% of the visited schools were found to comply with the RTE norms on Pupil-Teacher Ratio and over 60% of the 13,000 schools visited satisfied the infrastructure norms. The ASER report, however, also points to overall low learning levels.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 has become operative with effect from 1st April, 2010. The RTE Act is applicable to rural and urban areas in the country. The Act provides that every child in the 6-14 age group shall have a right to free and compulsory education till completion of elementary education. It prescribes norms and standards for Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR), school infrastructure and facilities. It lays down that the curriculum and evaluation process shall be in accordance with the values enshrined in the Constitution of India, and shall take into account the all-round development of the child, build on the child's knowledge, potentiality and talent, provide for learning through activities, discovery and exploration, and shall make the child free of fear, trauma and anxiety. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Framework of Implementation has been revised to correspond with the provisions of the RTE Act, 2009 in terms of provisioning for additional teachers, classrooms and facilities in schools, as well as quality interventions.

Enrolment and quality of learning at elementary level

571. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether even though there is an increase in the enrolment at elementary level, there is no quality improvement in learning; and
- (b) the reasons behind this and how Government is thinking to address the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducts the National Learners' Achievement Survey for classes III, V and VIII periodically. Till now, two rounds of Achievement Surveys have been completed. The surveys reveal improvements in the