

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

learning level. A comparative table of the progress in respect of the two rounds is given below:

| Subject        | Class III |          | Class V |          | Class VIII |          |
|----------------|-----------|----------|---------|----------|------------|----------|
|                | Round I   | Round II | Round I | Round II | Round I    | Round II |
| Mathematics    | 58.25%    | 61.89%   | 46.51%  | 48.46%   | 39.17%     | 42.71%   |
| Language       | 63.12%    | 67.84%   | 58.57%  | 60.31%   | 53.86%     | 56.57%   |
| EVS            | NA        | NA       | 50.30%  | 52.19%   | NA         | NA       |
| Science        | NA        | NA       | NA      | NA       | 41.30%     | 42.73%   |
| Social Science | NA        | NA       | NA      | NA       | 46.19%     | 48.03%   |

NA: Not applicable.

Government is committed to improving the quality of elementary education through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Steps taken in this regard include, *inter alia*, revision of SSA norms to align them with the provisions of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, including provisioning for additional teachers and classrooms as prescribed in the RTE Act, 2009, inclusion of new norms under SSA such as uniforms for girls, children from SC/ST and BPL families, residential/transport facilities for children in habitations which are too small and sparsely populated and urban deprived children without adult protection.

To ensure the availability of quality teachers National Council for Teacher Education has laid down the teacher qualifications under section 23 of the RTE Act. States would need to follow the prescribed teacher qualifications in all future recruitments. One of the essential qualifications for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher is that he/she should pass the Teacher Eligibility Test to be conducted by the appropriate government. Guidelines for the Teacher Eligibility Test have already been notified and are available on the Ministry's website [www.mhrd.nic.in](http://www.mhrd.nic.in)

### **Modernization of Railway Stations**

572. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations modernized till date in this financial year, which were proposed in Railway General Budget 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, the details name-wise;

(b) the number of railway stations under process for modernization, the details name-wise;