

- (vi) Support for 4,21,641 teachers salary.
- (vii) Support for training for 4,22,337 teachers.
- (viii) Support for textbooks for 1,99,78,741 children.
- (ix) Support for uniforms for 68,23,365 children.

Literacy rate in Bihar

†2723. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that literacy rate in Bihar is far less than the national average; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to increase literacy rate in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir. As per Census of 2011, the literacy rate of Bihar is 63.8% as against national average of 74.04%.

(b) In order to increase literacy rate in Bihar, Saakshar Bharat a flagship programme launched by the Government in the Country in 2009-10, has been sanctioned in 37 districts of the State that have adult female literacy rate of 50% or below. For this purpose, an amount of Rupees 8%68.34 lakhs has already been released to State Literacy Mission Authority of Bihar towards 1st installment of Central Share for implementation of the programme.

Cost of education

†2724. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the school education is continuously getting costlier over the years;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) the estimation on the increase in expenditure on schooling during the years from 2005 to 2011?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Government has enacted "The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009" which provides for free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years in a neighbourhood school as defined by the State Government. The Act further provides that for this purpose, no

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.