

governed by them, Textbooks from Classes I to XII are also available at Sales Counter located at NCERT Campus at Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi. In addition all the NCERT textbooks are also available on the NCERT website (www.ncert.nic.in) for immediate downloading and use across the country.

(d) NCERT in its endeavour to meet the commitment of providing textbooks to the students on time, puts in all efforts to monitor the printer-wise, title-wise production of textbooks and its simultaneous release of stock through the network of more than 340 wholesale agents and 4 Regional Centres of NCERT in the country. Sufficient copies of NCERT textbooks are available with NCERT in its different outlets *i.e.* Regional Production-cum-Distribution Centres at Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Bangalore and Kolkata to meet any further demand.

(e) and (f) NCERT has not received any complaint with regard to black marketing of NCERT books.

Shortage of schools in Bihar

†2722. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of schools in Bihar is far less than the requirement due to which lakhs of children are not able to get elementary education; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Government of Bihar has reported that the number of government and government aided schools in Bihar has increased from 52,112 in 2005 to 71,855 in 2011. These include 19,051 new primary schools opened under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) since inception of the programme, as well as 18,274 primary schools upgraded to upper primary schools. Enrollments in school has grown from 1,40,79,124 in 2005 to 1,99,74,702 in 2011-12.

(b) The following interventions have been approved for Bihar under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the year 2011-12:—

- (i) Opening of 1756 new primary school.
- (ii) Upgradation of 447 primary schools to upper primary schools.
- (iii) Construction of 76693 additional classrooms.
- (iv) Construction of 15000 girls' toilets.
- (v) Support for 5.59 lakh out-of-school children for mainstreaming in school.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (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.