

operative on 1st April, 2010, mandates that every child has a right to elementary education of satisfactory and equitable quality in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards. Government has since revised the Framework of Implementation for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) to correspond with the provisions of the RTE Act, as also the fund sharing pattern between the Central and State Governments to provide for a more favourable sharing ratio for the States. The Government has also accorded approval to a financial estimate of Rs. 2.31 lakh crore for the implementation of the RTE Act over a period of five years for the period 2010-15. The 13th Finance Commission has earmarked a sum of Rs. 24,068 crore for the same period specifically towards elementary education.

Proposal for setting up girls' hostels in Maharashtra

4746. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal for setting up girls' hostel under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for providing hostel facilities to girl students in age group of 14-18 studying in 9th to 12th standards in economically backward blocks of the State;

(b) the details of funds allocated so far on the proposal of the State Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in releasing of the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) The proposal submitted by the State Government of Maharashtra for construction of Girls' Hostels in 43 Educationally Backward' Blocks (EBBs) in the State was considered and approved by the Project Approval Board. Meanwhile, consequent to the revision of cost norms for construction of girls' hostels in June, 2011, revised proposal based on State Schedule of Rates has since been received from the State Government. Release of Central share for these hostels depends on acceptability of the revised proposal as per Scheme norms.

Availability of NCERT Textbooks

4747. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total print order for the academic year 2012-13 and the total NCERT textbooks distributed through its wholesale agents throughout the country up to 25 March, 2012, so that the children could get books on the first day of the academic session starting on 1 April, 2012; and