

## RAJYA SABHA

*Friday, the 7th December, 2012/16 Agrahayana 1934 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

### REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION OF QUESTION HOUR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, yesterday, 23 Members took part in the discussion on the Motion regarding FDI in multi-brand retail sector. Eleven Members are yet to take part in the discussion. The leaders of political parties along with the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had requested me that the Question Hour be dispensed with today in order to complete the debate on FDI and voting thereon.

I have acceded to their request as the rarest of the rare. Accordingly, we will now take up further discussion on the Motion. The reply of the mover will take place at 2.30 p.m. followed by voting. The Private Members' Legislative Business slated for today will be taken up immediately thereafter. I now call ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री नरेश अग्रवाल:** सभापति जी, लेकिन आज के क्वेश्चन कब लिए जाएंगे। आज जो क्वेश्चन लिए जाने थे, क्या ये रिप्लाइड मान लिए जाएंगे? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question-Answers will be laid on the Table of the House. So, they are part of record.

### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

#### Educational infrastructure in tribal areas

\*201. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any initiative to improve the educational infrastructure in tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is contemplating the inclusion of imparting/promoting education in the mother tongue, as part of the Right to Education Act, to promote and protect cultural values;

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Many initiatives to improve educational infrastructure in tribal areas have been undertaken. Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), targeted focus to districts with substantial tribal population has been made wherein elementary school infrastructure has been augmented by sanctioning 40,413 primary/upper primary schools, 2,04,146 additional classrooms, 1,54,824 toilets, 97,764 drinking water facilities, 508 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (residential schools for girls), 189 residential schools/hostels as well as 24,183 additional teachers.

Under the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), 2258 new secondary schools have been sanctioned, 3985 schools have been taken up for strengthening of infrastructure. 200 girls' hostels have been sanctioned in tribal areas. In addition Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sanctioned 152 Eklavya Model Residential Schools. Also 1423 tribal hostels and 835 Ashram shalas have been sanctioned from 2002-03 to 2012-13.

In higher education, the Government of India has augmented educational infrastructure by sanctioning 62 polytechnics in tribal districts, 6 NITs and 3 IIMs in tribal areas, establishing 9 Central Universities in the north eastern region which has predominantly tribal population as well as the setting up of the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University.

(c) to (e) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 stipulates under section 29 that the academic authority specified by the appropriate government, while laying down the curriculum and evaluation procedure shall take into consideration *inter alia* that the medium of instruction is, as far as practicable, in the child's mother tongue. It is for the specified academic authority in relation to the schools within the territory of the State Governments and Union Territories having legislature to take a view in the matter.

#### **No-room tickets**

\*202. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a great demand for issuing no-room tickets in the country;