

- (c) Does not arise in view of the above.

Nursery admission under RTE Act

4112. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Right to Education does not apply to the admissions to Nursery classes; and

(b) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years. Nursery schools are thus not covered. However, to safeguard the principle of an inclusive education system, Section 12(1)(c) of the Act also provides that specified category and unaided private schools shall admit in class I or pre-primary classes, whichever is the entry level for the school, to the extent of 25% of the strength of that class, those children belonging to disadvantaged groups and weaker sections of society and provide them free education. Till now, 22 State Governments/UT Administrations have notified detailed rules and procedures to implement the aforesaid section 12(1)(c) in their respective States.

**Distribution of 'Aakash' tablet to poor students of
SC/ST/OBC/Minority categories**

†4113. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the kind of scheme Government is formulating to distribute Aakash tablet among students of the country including Assam;

(b) whether any time period has been fixed in this regard; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is proposal to provide free Aakash tablet to poor students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Schedule Tribes, Minorities and Other Backward Classes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) Sir, At present, under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) scheme, the IIT Bombay is doing a project for achieving following deliverables after acquiring Low Cost Access cum computing Devices (LCADs) for teacher empowerment:—

- (i) Acquisition and testing of LCADs; and
- (ii) Hardware and software optimization of LCADs.

In the first phase, 1,00,000 tablets are for the purpose of testing by users all over India in different climatic and usage conditions. Since these tablets are for the purpose of testing and teacher empowerment, they would not be distributed to the students in the 1st phase. The devices are getting tested and once the production capacities are built up, the norms for the distribution of the tablets and the beneficiaries thereof will be developed.

**Payment of arrears of salary (*ex-gratia*) in Administrative
Staff College of India, Hyderabad**

4114. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether salary arrears of faculty, labelled as '*ex-gratia*', have not been paid due to poor financial condition of the Administrative Staff College of India, (ASCI) Hyderabad;
- (b) what steps Government has taken or going to take to ensure that the affairs of ASCI are properly and regularly monitored;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to set up a High Power Committee to consider the future course of ASCI in view of its current financial situation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) whether Government would consider bringing ASCI to the level of IIMs and place it under its direct supervision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No, Sir.