

subject to availability of vacant posts and fitness. Para 12.2 of the UGC Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and Other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education 2010 clearly mentions that all the sanctioned/approved posts in the university system shall be filled up on an urgent basis.

The UGC has also launched “Operation Faculty Recharge Programme” for augmenting the research and teaching resources of universities to tackle the faculty shortage in the university system.

Findings of ASER study on schools inspected

1335. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a study conducted by ASER, it has been revealed that only 80 per cent of the schools inspected had separate toilets for girls and only half of the facilities were in a usable condition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that according to the said study, 13 per cent of the schools were found not providing mid-day-meals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) As per the District Information System for Education (DISE) 2011-12 (provisional), which is a comprehensive school-wise database, 65.4% schools have girls' toilets of which 80.38% are functional. The ASER study is not a source of government data.

(c) and (d) As per the Mid-Day-Meals (MDM) Programme monitoring data, 100%, 96%, 100% and 97% schools were covered under the scheme during 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 (upto second quarter), respectively.

Rising trend of enrolment in private schools

1336. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study conducted by ASER Centre has found a steady decline in student performance in key areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said study has also revealed a fact that there is a rising trend of enrolment in private schools since 2006, touching over 28 per cent nationally; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), which is an assessment brought out annually by PRATHAM, a non-governmental organization, expresses concern regarding learning levels of children in schools in rural areas. However, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), which uses a rigorous research methodology, conducts very detailed periodic national surveys of the learning achievements of children in classes – III, V and VIII. Two rounds of these National Achievement Surveys have been completed by the NCERT which have revealed improvements in the overall learning levels, even though achievements remain low. The findings of the third round conducted recently for class V also indicate that there is enhancement in the level of achievement in most States.

(c) and (d) As per the District Information System for Education (DISE), the percentage of children enrolled in private schools in rural areas at the elementary education level was 16.99 in 2011-12.

Declining learning outcomes of school going children

1337. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) of 2012, which States that the learning outcomes of children is on the decline to the extent that more than half of all children in standard-V are at least three grade levels behind where they should be, in terms of reading ability;

(b) whether the Right to Education Act fails to give provisions, how quality of education imparted and attained, should be measured;

(c) whether Government is considering the much needed amendments to the Right to Education Act, to include therein the aspect of quality of school education; and