

Learning levels in primary education

1319. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the learning outcomes of students in primary education has continued to decline inspite of an improvement in school infrastructure and enrolment rates; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures Government proposes to take to check decline in the primary education?

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 the 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 learning achievements of children in classes – III, V and VIII. Two rounds of National Learners' Achievement Surveys have been completed by 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.

The Government is committed to improving the quality of elementary education. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which become operative with effect from 1st April, 2010, places an obligation on the appropriate government and local authority to ensure good quality elementary education conforming to the norms and standards specified in the Schedule to the Act. The norms of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for universalizing elementary education, have been revised to conform to the provisions of the RTE Act and several steps have been taken to improve the quality of elementary education, including the recruitment of additional teachers, periodic in-service training of teachers, free distribution of textbooks, regular academic support to primary and upper primary schools through Block Resource Centres and Cluster Resource Centres and support for learning enhancement programmes for Mathematics and Language.

Since the commencement of the RTE Act in April, 2010 sanctions under the SSA have been given for the construction of 30,808 primary schools and 10,644 upper primary schools, 6.88 lakh additional classrooms, 31,678 drinking water facilities, 5.18 lakh toilets and for the appointment of over 7 lakh teachers.

Setting up of Centre of IGNTU in Gujarat

1320. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government or Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU) has received any communication from State Government of Gujarat during last six months for setting up of a Center of this university in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the further action taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that it is very difficult to allocate 300 acres of Government land at a single place and if so, the further action taken on this particular point; and

(d) by when this university would start its educational activities in Gujarat along with the specific time limit thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The State Government has been informed that as a matter of policy, it has been decided that the University should first stabilize its operations at its main Campus in Amarkantak before proposals for setting up of new Centres of the University can be considered.

Constraints to enrolment of children

1321. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the enrolment of children aged 6-14 years in schools during 2011-12 and 2012-13 after the introduction of RTE Act and the details of the increase in enrolment;

(b) how many children of the age group are still out of school; and