Revolution in Eastern India, etc., Government has taken several steps for improving financial condition of farmers including enhancement in Minimum Support Prices of agricultural commodities, interest rate subvention for timely repayment of crop loans, debt waiver/debt relief, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector etc.

(c) to (e) Assam is periodically affected by floods which cause crop losses. Government is, therefore, promoting cultivation of rice in the boro season which affords assured and higher returns to the farmers. Government is also promoting submergence tolerant varieties of rice like Swarna sub 1 to prevent crop losses due to flash floods. Government is also extending assistance to the State for implementation of flood and erosion control measures like construction of embankments, plugging of breaches, prevention of erosion etc.

ASER study on schooling outcomes

*19. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government's attention has been drawn to an independent annual study by the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) Centre into schooling outcomes in rural India which has found steady decline in students' performance in key areas such as reading, comprehension and arithmetic although enrolment rates remain high;

(b)   if so, the details thereof; and

(c)   the measures being taken to ensure that the norms laid down under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act are implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is brought out annually by PRATHAM, a non-governmental organization. The ASER Rural-2012 (Provisional) presents certain positive findings, including that more than 96% children in the 6-14 years age groups are enrolled in schools in rural areas, while the percentage of out-of-school children in the 6-14 years age group has dropped from 4% in 2009 to 3.5% in 2012. The report expresses concern regarding learning levels of children in schools in rural areas.

(c)   The norms of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for universalizing elementary education, have been revised to conform to the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. Since the commencement of the RTE Act in April, 2010 sanctions under

SSA have been given for 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 appointment of over 7 lakh teachers.

Software for Indian languages

†*20. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLGY be pleased to state:

(a)　the achievements made so far by CDAC regarding the development of inter-transferable 'office' software fully capable of working in Indian languages;

(b)　whether any other agency has also accomplished this task successfully;

(c)　if so, the details thereof; and

(d)　the details of its usage in case this software has been successful?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) C-DAC has localized free and open source interoperable office software like Open Office and Libre Office. It is a complete "office" software and is capable of handling daily office computer work in various formats including proprietary formats and hence the software is interoperable with other popularly used office software like MS office. One can create various types of documents like text, spreadsheet, presentations and database in Unicode. One can download this Office software from http://www.ildc.in website or send his/her address and receive it in a Compact Disc form at his/her doorstep. C-DAC is the first organization to localize it into all the constitutionally recognized 22 Indian languages.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Other organizations and open source communities have been working on Localization as well as other developmental works of such office software. However, no one has Localized in all 22 constitutionally recognized Indian languages, except for C-DAC.

(d)　As on date 10,05,263 number of CDs of all languages have been distributed. These CDs have Open Office software bundled with few other software. Promotion of the software is done through the http://www.ildc.in website. Some of the PSUs, Banks, Insurance companies, NGOs, Government Offices and Schools have started using Open Office for their day to day computer work.

————

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.