

Funds to States with obligation to provide basic facilities in schools

†2879. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of Government schools in the country are running without basic amenities like toilets and several schools are running without school buildings;

(b) whether Government, while allocating funds to States under education head, would ensure that States are committed to provide facilities like buildings and toilets in the schools; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) all new school buildings are sanctioned as composite buildings, which include toilets for girls and boys. For existing rural schools, toilet facilities are constructed in convergence with schemes of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. As per the District Information System for Education (DISE) 2011-12, 87.9% schools have toilet facilities.

In order to meet the requirements of the Right to Education Act, 2009, priority is accorded to the provision of basic school infrastructure; *inter-alia* 3.04 lakh school buildings, 17.92 lakh additional classrooms and 8.53 lakh toilets have been sanctioned across the States/Union Territories so far. The funding for school infrastructure is shared with the States/UTs; the NER States contribute 10% of the total cost, while other States contribute 35%.

Fire fighting arrangements in schools

†2880. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the private and Government schools in the country, including in the capital Delhi, do not have adequate fire fighting arrangements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the total number of such schools in the country which have not obtained, no objection certificates, from the fire department so far; and

(d) the total number of such schools in the country against which action has been taken by Government for irregularity in this regard, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) Education being a subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution, and the majority of schools being under the jurisdiction of the State Governments, it is for the respective State Governments/Union Territories to take appropriate decisions in this matter. However, the Ministry of Human Resource Development had written to all the State Governments vide their letter dated 27th July, 2004, to ensure the safety and the well being of the children in the schools by taking necessary measures for fire safety in the school buildings. The Affiliation Bye-Laws of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) *inter-alia* provide that the school should scrupulously observe the guidelines from the Municipal Authority/District Collectorate/Transport Department regarding drinking water, fire safety and transport in the schools. The schools are also expected to obtain and submit fresh certificate regarding the fulfillment of these requirements every five years. The CBSE issues instruction from time to time in this regard. The State Governments and Union Territories were asked to ensure fire safety measures in the light of the Supreme Court judgment dated 13.04.2009 in the writ petition (civil) 483 of 2004, case titled Avinash Mehrotra *Vs.* Union of India.

International universities' pressure to frame rules/policies suiting them

2881. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that international universities have appointed consultants in Delhi, who are pursuing the agenda of these universities to put pressure on the Ministry and the UGC to frame rules suiting them and to their advantage;

(b) if so, the names and number of consultants operating in the Ministry and the UGC, propagating the views of the international universities; and

(c) whether Government is changing its policies to suit these international universities and putting the well known Indian universities at a disadvantage?