

also been sanctioned in Sitapur, a district which has a large concentration of SC population. The opening of additional KVs and JNVs during the Twelfth Five Year Plan is subject to approval by the competent authority and the availability of funds.

(b) Does not arise.

Improvement of quality education in Government schools

2893. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that parents continue to opt for private schools as Government schools fail to offer quality education;

(b) if so, the response of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government has taken steps to ensure quality education in Government schools at par with private schools;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) No independent study has been conducted by the Central Government to measure the fact that parents prefer private schools as compared to Government schools, for educating their children. However, as per the educational data for 2011-12, 75.2% of children in the 6-14 year age group are enrolled in Government/Government-aided schools, while 25.8% are in private schools. Thus bulk of the enrolment in the country is in the Government/Government-aided schools.

(c) to (e) The norms of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for universalising elementary education, have been revised to correspond with the provisions of the Right of (Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. Several steps have been taken, under the SSA programme, to improve the quality of elementary education. They include the recruitment of additional teachers for better Pupil Teacher Ratios (PTRs), the periodic in-service training of teachers, the free distribution of textbooks, provision of regular academic support to primary and upper primary schools through Block Resource Centres and Cluster Resource Centres, continuous and comprehensive

evaluation system, teacher and school grants for development of appropriate teaching-learning materials, support for learning enhancement programmes for Mathematics and Languages etc.

Teaching standards in Government schools

2894. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that teaching standards in Government-run-schools has gone down;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study to find out the reasons for this trend;
- (d) if so, the details of the findings;
- (e) the steps taken by Government to ensure quality teaching in Government-run-schools in the country; and
- (f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) 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 such National Achievement Surveys have been completed by the NCERT, which have revealed improvements in the overall learning levels, even though achievements remain low.

(e) and (f) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the State Governments and UT Administrations are supported on several interventions to improve teaching standards, including regular in-service teacher training, a 30-day induction training for newly recruited teachers, the training of all untrained teachers to acquire professional qualifications, the recruitment of additional teachers for better pupil-teacher ratios, the provision of academic support for teachers through block and cluster resource centres, a continuous and comprehensive evaluation system to equip the teachers to measure pupil performance and provide remedial action wherever required, and teacher and school grants for development of appropriate