

till its completion. Due to such initiatives, the enrolment of ST children has increased to 2.17 crore in 2011-12 from 2.05 crore in 2009-10, before the enactment of the RTE Act. Further, 31 States/UTs including the State of Andhra Pradesh have notified the RTE Rules and 3 UTs have adopted the Central Rules.

In the field of Higher Education, the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006 which has come into force *w.e.f.* 4th January, 2007, provides for 7.5% reservation in admission to students belonging to the Scheduled Tribe category students, in certain Central Educational Institutions established, maintained or aided by the Central Government, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Besides, relaxation in the minimum qualifying marks in admission for ST candidates in higher education is also provided. Further, students belonging to ST category are also facilitated through scholarships/fellowships, interest subsidy on education loan, preparatory courses, remedial coaching, hostel facilities, etc.

Language policy for whole country

3496. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any language policy for whole country keeping the interest of local languages;
- (b) whether, English medium education is creating many social problems as well as threat; and
- (c) whether Government is thinking to apply such policy caring for local languages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Ours is a vast, diverse and multilingual country. There are 122 languages being spoken by more than 10,000 speakers each in this country out of which 22 are included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Altogether, there are more than 1,500 mother tongues in the country. In this context, multilingualism is the accepted policy of the Government. For the preservation, development and promotion of Indian languages, the

Government implements several schemes through its various language institutions. The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore, under this Ministry, is mandated to assist and advise the State Governments on matters of language and coordinate the development of Indian languages.

(b) and (c) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, provides that elementary education should be imparted in mother tongue as far as possible as it helps the children channelize their full energy in acquiring knowledge instead of dissipating their energy in learning a language foreign to their social environment. State/Union Territory Governments have to implement this provision in its true spirit.

Provision of basic medical facilities in schools

3497. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that most of the schools in the country are devoid of doctors, paramedical staff and other infrastructure to deal with emergencies;

(b) whether Government is also aware that the Commission for Protection of Child Right Act, 2005 has recommended for the above mentioned facilities in the schools;

(c) if so, whether Government has taken any step to provide medical facilities in the schools; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) 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/UT Governments to take appropriate steps in the matter. However, the schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) promote the physical well being of the pupil, ensure high standard of cleanliness and health habits, and arrange periodic medical examinations of the students and send medical reports to parents or guardians as per the provisions contained in the Examination/Affiliation Bye-Laws of the Board.

(b) The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has