

Governments to extend the three-year deadline to create the necessary infrastructure to implement the Right to Education (RTE) Act; and

(b) if so, the relevant details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir, the Government has heeded the sense of the discussions in the Central Advisory Board on Education in its meeting held on 8th November, 2012 to continue with the timelines for school infrastructure standards set out in the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE), 2009.

In order to enable the States/UTs to comply with norms stipulated in the RTE Act, Rs.64360.84 crores of Central Government funds have been released to the States/UTs so far, under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan SSA) since 2010-11 and 58,163 schools, 5,18,700 toilets, 3 .678 drinking water facilities and 2,47,181 ramps have been sanctioned under the SSA.

Regularization of illegal primary schools

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

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 40 per cent primary schools across the country are illegal;

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) whether Government proposes to regularize these illegal schools by providing them infrastructure and other basic facilities; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor;

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU) : (a) and (b) As per the District Information System for Education (DISE) 2011-12, against a total number of 841644 primary schools in the country, 15723(1.9%) are unrecognized.

(c) and (d) Section 18 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides that no school can be established without

obtaining a certificate of recognition from the authority prescribed by concerned State/UT Government. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) which assists the States/UTs in implementing the RTE Act, 2009, provides for the strengthening of school infrastructure in Government schools only.

Development of quality seeds

*454. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to increase development of high quality seeds of rice, wheat and pulses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to provide these high quality seeds to farmers at low cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total of 157 varieties/hybrids of rice (68), wheat (28) and pulses (61) have been notified during the last three years based on the research work conducted by National Agricultural Research System (NARS) comprising of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutes and All India Coordinated Research Projects of ICAR located in State Agricultural Universities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DoAC) of the Ministry of Agriculture provides assistance for production and distribution of quality seeds of rice, wheat and pulses under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), thus making quality seeds of these crops available to farmers at low cost.

(e) Question does not arise.