

Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, the norms and standards laid down in the Schedule to the Act were to be fulfilled within a period of three years from the enactment of the Act. All States/UTs have made progress in this regard. As per the District Information System for Education (DISE) 2011-12, 60.52% schools had the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) as prescribed, 67.74% of the schools had girls' toilets, 87.63% had boys' toilets, 94.57% schools had drinking water and 53.57% had ramps.

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), which is the main vehicle for implementation of the RTE Act. Since 2010-11, 58,163 schools, 5,18,700 toilets, 31,678 drinking water facilities and 2,47,181 ramps have been sanctioned under the SSA.

(c) to (e) No case of withdrawal of recognition of schools has been reported to the Central government. The Model Rules circulated to the States and the Central RTE Rules provide that the appropriate government may withdraw recognition if they so determine. In case recognition is so withdrawn, prior provision of elementary education in a neighbourhood school will have to be made for all the children in such schools.

#### **Abolition of board examination**

3489. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the abolition of board examinations and automatic promotion at the end of the academic year as per the RTE Act has led to increased complacency among teachers and reduced student achievements as evidently shown by latest Annual Status of Education Report, 2012; and

(b) if so, the findings of the said Report and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Central Government has not conducted any study/survey which may indicate that the abolition of board examinations and automatic promotion at the end of the academic year as per the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE), Act, 2009 has led to increased complacency among teachers and reduced student achievements.

(b) The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2012, brought out annually by PRATHAM, a non-governmental organization, expresses concern regarding the learning levels of children in schools in rural areas. However, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducts very detailed periodic national surveys of learning achievements of children in classes - III, V and VIII. Two rounds of National Learners' Achievement Surveys have been completed by the NCERT which have revealed improvements in the overall learning levels, even though achievements remain low. The findings of the third round conducted recently for class V also indicate that there is enhancement in the level of achievement in most States.

**Norms fulfilled by schools under RTE**

3490. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the enactment of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, all States and Union Territories were given a deadline to comply with the norms by March 31, 2013;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted to see as to what extent these norms are fulfilled by the schools in various States and Union Territories; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) As per the Section 19(1) of the