

(c) if not, by when such a proposal would be implemented in each State in the Twelfth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such proposal exists. However, the Government of India has been taking all required measures for providing quality education to all children of age 6-14 years across the country including the rural and backward areas and the scheduled areas of the State of Andhra Pradesh in compliance with the RTE Act, 2009.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

**Poor teaching standard in rural schools**

†658. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the poor standard of teaching in the schools especially in rural areas is a matter of serious concern;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has contemplated to prepare any plan to improve teaching standard in the schools of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) There are 5,34,946 untrained teachers in the Elementary Schools in the Country. The quality of teaching is reflected in the learning achievements of the students. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), which uses a rigorous research methodology, conducts very detailed periodic national surveys of learning achievement of children in classes — III, V and VIII, which have revealed a slight improvement in pupil achievement learning levels, even though the overall achievement remains low.

(c) and (d) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the State Governments and Union Territory (UT) Administrations are supported on several interventions to

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

improve teaching standards, including regular in-service teacher training, a 30-days 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, academic support for teachers through block, and cluster resource centres, a continuous and comprehensive evaluation system to equip the teacher to measure pupil performance and provide remedial action wherever required, and teacher and school grants for the development of appropriate teaching-learning materials, etc. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 specifies the statutory duties and responsibilities of teachers and lays down the minimum qualifications for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in elementary schools, which have been notified by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) in its Notification dated 23rd August, 2010. For secondary education, the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan programme similarly provides for in-service teacher training and academic support to schools for improving teacher performance.

#### **Setting up of open polytechnic institutes**

659. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to set up open polytechnic institutes all over the country through National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS);

(b) whether Government has also entered into agreement with New Zealand Government for their support in opening of Open Polytechnic Institutes in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and how much is the budget for this project; and

(d) the details of such institutes to be established and where?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

(b) The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Open Polytechnic New Zealand (OPNZ) to strengthen the distance education programmes run by it. The MoU aims to promote vocational and technical education as per the socio-economic needs of the workforce in the country.