

their absorption in Industry with certain skills gained over a fixed period of time or their seamless integration into higher learning that enables them to acquire a formal degree and higher skills so that they are able to perform higher level jobs in industry. The schemes currently being implemented by the Ministry, including the scheme for Vocationalisation of Higher Secondary Education and the scheme for Community Development, through Polytechnics are to operate within this framework.

Findings of ASER

668. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the findings relating to quality of education from the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2010 released by PRATHAM (NGO);

(b) the steps taken by Government to ensure quality of education especially at the primary school level; and

(c) the average pupil to teacher ratio in the country and the steps taken to improve this ratio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the Government relies on the National Learners' Achievement Surveys conducted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), which are a more comprehensive and reliable source than the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER). Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the State Governments and Union Territory (UT) Administrations are supported on several interventions to ensure the quality of elementary education, including annual in-service teacher training, the distribution of free and improved textbooks, the recruitment of additional teachers for better Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR), academic support for schools and teachers through block and cluster resource centres, a continuous and comprehensive evaluation system, teacher and school grants for development of appropriate teaching-learning materials, etc.

(c) As per the District Information System for Education (DISE) — 2011-12, the PTR in the country is 30:1 at the elementary level. Over 14 lakh teacher posts

have been filled upto 31.03.2013 against 19.82 lakh sanctioned teacher posts to improve the PTR.

Compliance targets under RTE Act

669. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the compliance targets of the Right to Education Act for 2013 have been met;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government proposes to extend the targets of the Right to Education Act; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (e) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 mandates the provision of free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of 6-14 years. As per the District Information System for Education (DISE), the enrolment of children at the elementary level has increased from 18.77 crore in 2008-09 to 19.90 crore in 2011-12. The schedule to the RTE Act had specified norms and standards for schools which were to be put in place by March, 2013. As per the DISE 2011-12, in Government and Government aided schools 59.05% schools had a Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) as prescribed, 65.35% of the schools had girls' toilets, 87.81% had boys' toilets, 94.26% schools had drinking water and 61.66% had ramps. The State-wise details are given in the Statement (*See* below). Since the RTE Act came into force, under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), a total of 43,668 schools, 7,004,60 additional classrooms, 5,46,513 toilets and 33,703 drinking water facilities have been sanctioned to the States for ensuring compliance with the RTE Act.

In order to enable the States/UTs to comply with the norms stipulated in the RTE Act, a sum of Rs. 74993.19 crore of Central Government funds have been released to the States/UTs so far, under the SSA since 2010-11.