

higher education through various grants. The total Government subsidy (including grants) given to higher education is Rs. 15,000 crores. With regard to subsidies provided to students in higher education on educational loans, from the academic year 2009-10, starting from 1st April, 2009, the Government has launched a new Central Sector Scheme to provide full interest subsidy for the period of moratorium (*i.e.* course period plus 1 year or 6 months after getting job, whichever is earlier) on educational loans taken by students from Economically Weaker Sections from the scheduled banks under the Educational Loan Scheme of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to pursue technical/ professional courses in India. Under this Scheme, the Government has released a total amount of Rs. 2231.23 crores since its implementation.

(c) and (d) As per the University Grants Commission (UGC), the enrolment of students in various courses at all levels in universities and colleges and other institutions of higher education for the year 2011-2012 was 203.27 lakhs (provisional). The number of students, who have benefited under the interest subsidy scheme so far, is over 25 lakhs. Thus, approximately 12.5% of the students in higher education have availed of the benefit under the scheme.

#### **Reimbursement under RTE**

1289. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

(a) whether there have been claims for reimbursement under the Right to Education for the admission against the reservation of students for underprivileged students;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the amount is projected to increase in the course of the financial year 2013-14 and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether this has been adequately budgeted for the financial year 2013-14 and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) Section 12(1) (c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides that all unaided private schools shall admit class-I (or pre-primary class, as the case may be) to the extent of at least 25% of the strength of the class, children belonging to the weaker sections and disadvantaged groups. The State Governments reimburse the expenditure incurred by the private unaided schools on the education of children admitted under Section 12(1)(c) through their own resources. This data is not maintained centrally. At present, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme does not support the State/UT Governments for this component and the expenditure is borne by the State/UT concerned. An Expenditure Finance Committee memo to include this component has been circulated and the comments of different Departments have been invited. Budgeting for this reimbursement would be possible only after the approval of the new component by the competent authority.

**Failure to implement RTE**

1290. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's failure to implement the Right to Education Act in schools would have any adverse effect on higher education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government, in consultation with State Governments proposes to ensure implementation of RTE Act in schools in letter and spirit; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) No Sir. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 mandate the provision of free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of 6-14 years and over time, its continuing implementation will have a positive effect on higher education too. Most eligible habitations in the country have been provided with