

Infrastructural upgradation in schools

1315. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite a 52 percent increase in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan budget for the infrastructural upgradation of schools between 2010-11 and 2012-13, it has not translated into any significant increase in the number of schools meeting the Right to Education norms;

(b) if so, the details of the infrastructural upgradation of schools made between this period; and

(c) the budgetary allocation for this sector in the budget 2013-14 and what effective steps are being taken to improve the infrastructure facilities in the schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There has been a steady increase in the number of schools meeting the norms stipulated in the Right of Children to Free & Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 during the preceding years. The creation of school infrastructure and buildings takes time and progress is reflected in the subsequent years. Between 2010-11 and 2012-13, 34,664 primary school buildings, 18,017 upper primary school buildings, 5,24,412 additional classrooms, 3,51,552 toilets and 30,917 drinking water facilities have been operationalized across the country under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme.

(c) For 2013-14, the budget allocation for infrastructure is Rs. 589270.94 lakh. There has been some delay in carrying out civil works in some States due to non-availability of land. Close monitoring of completion of school infrastructure facilities is undertaken under the SSA, to ensure that the States/UTs utilize the allocated funds and meet residual gaps as per the standards laid down by the RTE Act, 2009.

Reports on implementation of RTE Act

†1316. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Right to Education Act has come into force in the country during the last few years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.