

**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;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the number of years elapsed till March, 2013 since its implementation;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the reports of several committees and persons reviewing the failures and successes of this law have been received by Government so far; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the new steps taken by Government in education sector on the basis of these reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) Yes Sir, The Right of Children to Free & Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 came into force on 1st April 2010 and has completed 3 years in March 2013. There have been isolated media reports of adverse reactions on the one hand and on the other hand positive suggestions of persons and civil society organizations on the implementation of the RTE Act have also been received, which have been used by the Government as feedback about the RTE Act.

All States/UTs have enacted their State RTE Rules in order to implement the RTE Act.

A sum of Rs. 74993.19 crore has been released under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to the State/UTs in order to support them in compliance of the RTE Act since it came into force. Also, 43,668 schools, 7,004,60 additional classrooms, 5,46,513 toilets and 33,703 drinking water facilities have been sanctioned to the States/UTs since the implementation of the RTE Act.

#### **Poisoning of mid day meals**

1317. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the recent incident of poisoning of mid day meals and contamination of various things in vitamins resulting in many death of children, Government has taken any action to prevent any such incidents in future;

(b) the details thereof;