

Coverage of RTE Act

†546. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the children below the age of six years have been kept out of the ambit of the Right to Education Act;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the Committees constituted earlier in this regard had recommended to bring such children under the ambit of this Act;
- (c) whether there is an acute shortage of teachers at present to implement the Right to Education successfully;
- (d) the details of shortage of teachers at different levels throughout the country; and
- (e) the number of students studying from Class I to Class XII and the ratio of students and teachers, at present?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (e) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory elementary education to all the children of the age of 6 to 14 years in a neighbourhood school. Section 11 of the RTE Act also provides that the appropriate Government may make necessary arrangements for pre-school education. A Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) sub-committee was set up on 4th August, 2011 to consider the extension of RTE Act, 2009 to pre-primary classes. Final recommendations have not been received. 25.83 crore children are enrolled in classes I to XII in the country. Teacher availability in elementary education has improved with the additional recruitment of 15.06 lakh teachers funded under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan programme. The national pupil teacher ratio in Government and Government aided schools is 28:1 at primary, 31:1 at upper primary and 34:1 at secondary level as per Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) of 2013-14.

Shifting of CESCK

547. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has received any proposals from the Karnataka

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.