

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Pre-primary education is a part of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) provided by the Government through the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD). Both, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) through the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSE&L) and the Ministry of WCD, work in tandem to locate the anganwadi centres in or as proximately to primary schools, as feasible.

(b) and (c) A Sub-committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) has been set up to examine the feasibility of bringing pre-school education and secondary education under the purview of the RTE Act, 2009.

#### **RTE provisions in SSA**

†\*286. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Right of children to free and compulsory Education (RTE) Act has provisions to the effect that in un-aided private schools, admissions to at least 25 per cent seats would be given free of cost to the children belonging to deprived and weaker sections and their fees would be reimbursed by Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for such provisions not being made in the framework of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA); and

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government to reimburse the expenditure being incurred by the State Governments on the admission of such children in private schools under the RTE Act?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Section 12 (1)(c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act mandates that all private un-aided schools shall admit children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group in the neighbourhood in class I (or pre-school, as the case may be), to the extent of at least 25 percent of the strength of that class and provide free and compulsory elementary education to them till its completion.

(b) and (c) The Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) Framework has been amended with effect from 1st April, 2014 to assist States/UTs towards reimbursement of costs incurred with respect to admission under Section 12(1)(c). The reimbursement would be based on per child cost norms notified by the State/UT concerned for classes I to VIII, subject to a maximum ceiling of 20 percent of the size of the total

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) approved for the State/UT under SSA. The reimbursement will be available to the States in 2015-16 for children admitted in schools in 2014-15.

**Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme funds**

\*287. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been issued by Government for grant of funds under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there are any discrepancies in allocating/sanctioning funds to different State Governments;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) Various water resources projects, which cannot be completed by State Governments from their own resources and are in an advanced stage of construction, are provided grants under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), launched in 1996-97, for Major/Medium Irrigation (MMI) projects. In 1999-2000, this Scheme was extended to Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) projects to provide financial assistance to States to complete various on-going irrigation projects in the country so that envisaged irrigation potential of the projects is fully realised and irrigation facilities are extended to more and more areas.

The guidelines for this scheme are being revised from time to time in order to widen the scope of funding as well as to allow special consideration for the regions lagging behind in development. Recently, the AIBP Guidelines has been modified in October, 2013. The main features of the guidelines are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) to (d) No, Sir. There is no discrepancy in allocating/sanctioning funds to different State Governments under AIBP. The funds are allocated to different Water Resources Projects of the States based on:

- Category of the States (General Category States, Special Category States, North-Eastern States, Hilly States, Drought Prone Area Programme and Desert Development Programme areas, Tribal Areas and undivided Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (KBK) districts of Odisha.