The Central Government through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has introduced several measures to improve the quality of elementary education through (i) introducing the 'Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat', a foundational programme to improve early reading and writing with comprehension and early mathematics; (ii) a focussed programme on strengthening Science and Maths learning at the upper primary level; (iii) sharing an exemplar on continuous comprehensive evaluation in elementary education developed by the NCERT; (iv) notifying learning outcomes by class and stage of education brought out by the NCERT; (v) conducting the 3rd round of National Achievement Surveys for Class III, V and VIII to track student learning outcomes; (vi) provide funds and technical guidance to states for annual refresher training of teachers and (vii) provide academic support to teachers and schools through Block and Cluster Resource Centres.

Learning levels of children in rural areas

2375. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the learning levels of children in schools in rural areas is very low;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), conducts detailed periodic national surveys of learning achievements of children in classes–III, V and VII/VIII, across the country including rural areas in intervals of three years. Three rounds of National Learners' Achievement Surveys have been completed by the NCERT which have revealed improvements in the overall learning levels in various subjects in these classes, even though learning levels remain low.

Review of RMSA

2376. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) has been reviewed recently;

(b) if so, the details of the review done;

(c) the findings made in the review; and