

National System of Education implying that up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. The National System of Education envisages a common educational structure. The 10+2+3 structure has now been accepted in most parts of the country.

A number of suggestions are being received to include pre-school education under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE), 2009 and relating to the age of admission in nursery class. These suggestions have been kept for consideration as and when the education policy is revised.

Enrolment of children in schools

47. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all the children in the age group of 6 to 14 years in the country are enrolled in schools;
- (b) how many of them are able to avail of free educational facilities extended by Government;
- (c) whether there are sufficient Government schools in all the States to cater to them;
- (d) whether a large number of Government schools are being closed in States like Rajasthan and Telangana for want of children; and
- (e) whether such a step actually denies the opportunity to a number of students, particularly those belonging to backward classes to attend schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) to (c) The Census 2011 estimated 20.78 crore children in the 6-13 age group. In 2013-14 enrolment in elementary schools was 19.89 crore children in 14.49 lakh elementary schools, including 13.79 lakh Government and Government aided schools providing free education.

(d) and (e) No State Government has reported that schools have been shut down due to non-availability of children, however some State Governments, like Rajasthan have reported an exercise of consolidation of schools.

Data bank of students going abroad

48. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is willing to prepare data bank of students going abroad for study;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when such a data bank is likely to be established; and

(c) whether Government also proposes to issue any guidelines for the students, seeking admission for studies in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. (DR.) RAM SHANKAR KATHERIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Missions in various foreign countries issue appropriate advisories from time to time for the benefit of students seeking admission for studies in respective countries.

Stunted growth in central university, Koraput

49. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the central university at Koraput is having a stunted growth due to deficiencies in academy and other infrastructure; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken and contemplated for removing such deficiencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. (DR.) RAM SHANKAR KATHERIA): (a) The Central University of Orissa, Koraput was established under the Central Universities Act 2009. At present the University is conducting its academic activities from a temporary building at Koraput through 6 Schools with 9 Centres. The University follows the curriculum as approved by its statutory bodies like Academic Council and Executive Council. With regard to infrastructure development, it is the responsibility of Govt. of Odisha to provide the external infrastructure relating to land, road connectivity, electricity and water supply as per the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the University and the State Government. The University has been allotted 435 acres of land by the State Government. The development of a University relating to academics and infrastructure is a long drawn out and an ongoing process. It is also a fact that the location of the University in a remote area is also an obstacle in its speedy development. The nearest airport, good hospitals and other good social infrastructure are not available near the site and nearest city with all good facilities is Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh which is 200 km. away from