

(c) the number of children who have discontinued studies due to this and the number of those who have to walk more than the stipulated distances in the Act; and

(d) whether Government has taken any step to arrest this trend?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (d) As per District Information System for Education (DISE), the number of schools imparting elementary education in 2009-10 was 13.03 lakh which has increased to 14.49 lakh in 2013-14. Since the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 has come into force on 1st April, 2010, 42,253 primary schools and 14,017 upper primary schools have been sanctioned under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, under their RTE rules, are the appropriate authority to specify neighbourhood school norms. The total enrolment in elementary schools has risen from 18.79 crore children in 2009-10 to 19.89 crore children in 2013-14.

Lifts for disabled students

3178.SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no system of lifts for disabled students in Government schools in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to issue instructions to all concerned in the country for provision of lifts for disabled students in Government run institutes/ schools to help them to pursue their courses with comfort; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (d) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyimic Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), there is no specific provision for the lifts in Government Schools for disabled children. However, under SSA, States and UT's are assisted to enrol children with special needs (CWSN) in schools, through early identification, assessment camps, distribution of aids and appliances, appropriate teaching learning equipments, training of teachers in inclusive strategies, barrier free school infrastructure including ramps with railings as well as home based learning methods.

The RMSA also provides barrier free access to disabled children at secondary level.

The University Grant Commission (UGC) has implemented a scheme called “Higher education for Persons with Special needs (HEPSN) which is basically meant for creating an environment at the higher education institutions to enrich higher education learning experiences for differently-abled persons. Creating awareness about the capabilities of differently-abled persons, constructions aimed at improving accessibility, purchase of equipments to enrich learning etc. are the broad categories of assistance under the scheme.

Funding Pattern of SSA

3179. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that SSA funding pattern between the Central and State Governments is hitting the weak States adversely;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments had lodged protest against the SSA funding pattern and urged it to review this;

(c) if so, Government’s reaction thereto and the steps taken in this regard;

(d) whether there is an urgent need to bring in some changes in the curriculum;

(e) if so, whether CBSE is planning to introduce subjects like photography, theatre and journalism at the plus two level; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The central fund released under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has increased from ₹ 19594.07 crore in 2010-11 to ₹ 24735.85 crore in 2013-14. Some States like Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand etc., have requested to review the fund sharing pattern between the Centre and States under SSA. After due consideration, the Government of India has decided to continue with the existing fund sharing pattern under SSA between Central and State Governments, which is in the ratio of 65:35 for all States except North Eastern Region (NER) States where it is 90:10, from the year 2010-11 for implementation of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.