

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.

(d) The curriculum development is an ongoing process. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF)-2005 sets the guidelines for syllabi and textbooks at all the stages of school education.

(e) and (f) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has introduced 'Mass Media Studies' as an academic/vocational subject from the academic year 2010-11 for classes XI-XII and 'Theatre Studies' for class XI-XII from the academic session 2013-14. The CBSE Board offers compulsory areas called 'Work Education' and 'Art Education' for the students of classes IX-X and photography is a part of these areas.

#### **Government schools without libraries**

3180.SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of the Government schools are functioning without libraries and librarians;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in this regard, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government to fill up the vacancies within a specific timeframe?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) As per Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) 2013-14, out of 99807 Government Schools, 85103 Schools have libraries with full time librarians in 10812 of these schools.

(c) and (d) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), *inter-alia*, provides for financial assistance to States/UTs for setting up libraries including staff, in Government schools. So far, 37438 Secondary Schools have been approved under RMSA, for setting up of libraries.

#### **Scholarships for higher education in foreign universities**

3181.SHRI MATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is offering any scholarships for meritorious students for pursuing higher education in foreign universities, if so, the details thereof; and