

Out of school children with special needs

1568. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, according to a report under SSA, 28 per cent of children with special needs (CWSN) are out of school;

(b) the reasons for such a large number of CWSN being out of school when the national average of out of school children is 3 per cent; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to ensure education for CWSN?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) An independent survey conducted in 2013 commissioned by this Ministry estimated that out of 21.39 lakh children with special needs (CWSNs) in the age group of 6-13, only 6,00,626 CWSNs were out of school.

(b) and (c) The Government of India is assisting States/UTs to implement the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) as a programme for universalising elementary education for all children in the 6-14 years age group including CWSNs. SSA provides ₹ 3000/- per child per annum for the special interventions related to education of CWSNs. The major interventions under SSA for the education of CWSNs are identification, functional and formal assessment, appropriate educational placement, preparation of Individualized Educational Plan, provision of free aids and appliances, transport and/or escort support, teacher training, appointment of resource teachers, therapeutical support and barrier free access. The National Council for Educational Research and Training has recently brought out a handbook for teachers to enable them to teach CWSNs more effectively.

Edusat for distance education

†1569. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Edusat of the country dedicated to education could not become a popular medium of distance education among students in the absence of proper publicity;

(b) if so, whether any efforts are being made by the Central and State Governments for its publicity and to make it popular; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The Department of Space (DOS)/Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) undertook the Edusat Programme for demonstrating the potential of Space technology towards meeting the needs of education sector. DOS/ISRO played a role of technology provider by launching the Edusat satellite and providing ground equipment. The responsibility of content, operations, management and publicity remains with the State/Central user agencies. However, towards publicity measures DOS/ISRO held pre-launch consultations with prospective users from State Governments/ Universities including bringing out brochures on Edusat programme. Further, user agencies like Utkarsh Society, Haryana; Punjab Education Society, Punjab; Society for APNET, Andhra Pradesh; BISAG, Gujarat, VTU e-learning, Karnataka; Victers, Kerala; Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC), New Delhi are making publicity through their websites.

Further, it is mentioned that Edusat (Tele-education) networks are popular in the states of Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, where the States have suitable mechanism to address the aspects of operations, management, content generation, etc.

As per the information furnished by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the university operates a small network under the Edusat project for carrying out teleconferencing sessions of Gyan Darshan-2 (DTH TV Channel). Under Edusat project, the students get assembled at select Edusat nodes at IGNOU's Regional centres and Study Centres to participate in the live session and also interact with teachers. Further, CEC, New Delhi is operating one of the Edusat National Beam since September, 2005 and regular one hour live transmission of the lectures delivered by the subject experts started from the CEC/Media Centres Studios. In view of the requirement of students, since May, 2014, CEC has started four (4) hours live transmission of lectures on Edusat network. The same are available through the CEC website www.cec-ugc.nic.in.

Funding pattern for SSA in Jammu and Kashmir

†1570. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has changed the pattern of funding for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in Jammu and Kashmir;

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.