

**10th edition of ASER**

1580. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has examined the recently released 10th edition of the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) compiled by NGO Pratham;

(b) whether as in the past reports, the present one indicates enrolment as near universal, especially post-RTE, learning outcomes dismal, showing few signs of improvement; and,

(c) whether RTE's pre-occupation with infrastructure requirements has come at the cost of outcomes especially in the quality of learning?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The 10th edition of the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) brought out by PRATHAM, a non-governmental organization has stated that the country is close to universal enrolment for the age group 6-14, with the percentage of children enrolled in schools at 96%, the percentage of out-of-school children remaining at 3.3%. The Report has expressed concern regarding learning levels of children in schools in rural areas.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 had made education a fundamental right of every child between the ages of 6 and 14 and specifies minimum norms for schools in order to ensure quality education to all children. The RTE Act, 2009 and the centrally sponsored scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) have assisted the States/UTs in achieving near universal Elementary Education and improved Elementary school infrastructure across the country.

Through the SSA, the Central Government, the State Government/UT administrations are being financially supported to address gaps and challenges in ensuring quality education to children in elementary classes through recruitment of additional teachers to improve the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR), regular annual-in-service teacher training to all teachers to update their skills and knowledge, support for Computer Aided Learning at upper primary level and regular academic support through Block Resource Centres and Cluster Resource Centres. Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat, a sub-programme under SSA has been launched to enhance the quality of foundational learning in languages and early mathematics in classes 1 and 2 and a focused programme for Science and Maths at upper primary level under SSA is also being supported.

The 03 rounds of National Achievement Survey (NAS) conducted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for classes 3, 5, 8 have revealed overall improvement in learning levels in various subjects in most of the States, even though achievements remain low.