

mark sheets, etc. These complaints are forwarded to UGC which sends it to the Universities concerned for its redressal.

(c) to (e) State Private Universities are established by the Act of respective State Legislature. They are regulated by their respective State Acts and the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003. As per the Regulations, the UGC Expert Committee conducts inspection of Private Universities to ensure standard and quality of education, research, etc. and deficiencies, if any, observed during inspection are communicated to the respective Universities for rectification.

Similarly, Deemed to be Universities are regulated by UGC [Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016. The functioning of the Deemed to be Universities is reviewed by the UGC once in five years as per the UGC Regulations. This review includes evaluation of infrastructure, faculty, admission process, fee structure, examination process, research, etc. After the review, the Institutes are asked to rectify the deficiencies, if any, found during inspection.

Children not attending schools

850. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) how the Ministry looks at the Census data which indicates that 8.4 crore children still do not attend schools;
- (b) whether nearly one crore children are forced to work while they learn;
- (c) the status with regard to the above in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and
- (d) whether the Right to Education Act and other relevant Acts do not have any impact to stop children from working and encourage them to go to schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) Census 2011 has reported that 8.4 crore children do not go to school in the age group of 5-17 years. However, under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 the mandated age group for free and compulsory elementary education in a neighbourhood school is 6-14 years. According to Census 2011, the number of children who do not attend schools (including never attended and attended before) in the age group of 6-13 years are 3.81 crore. Census 2011 has shown a marked decline in the number of out of school children in this age group from 5.8 crore in 2001 to 3.8 crore in 2011, a 35% decline over

a period of ten years. The States and UTs in their Annual Work Plan and Budget, 2016-17 under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan have reported a total of 14.2 lakh children as out of school at the elementary level of schooling as on 31.03.2016.

(b) As per the Census 2011, there are 78 lakh working children in the age group of 5-17 years. However, the number of working children in the age group of 5-14 years has reduced from 126.6 lakh in 2001 to 43.5 lakh in 2011, a 65% decline over a period of ten years.

As per an independent survey commissioned in 2014 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), 60.64 lakh children were estimated to be out of school in the age group of 6-13 years. The number of out of school children has declined from 134.59 lakh in 2005 to 60.64 lakh in 2014 in the same age group.

(c) As per Census 2011, there are 4.04 lakh working children in Andhra Pradesh including Telangana, in the age group of 5-14 years. This number has drastically reduced from 13.63 lakh in 2001.

(d) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides assistance to State Governments and UTs to ensure free and compulsory quality elementary education for all children. Universal enrolment is the first goal of SSA, and hence all efforts are being made to bring all children in schools. SSA has provided 2.04 lakh primary and 1.59 lakh upper primary schools for ensuring universal provisioning of schooling facilities. Preference for opening of school is given to tribal areas, and areas with high concentration of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and minority population. In addition, 3609 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, which are residential schools for girls at upper primary level, have also been sanctioned to the States for improving access to marginalised girls particularly out of school, either drop out or never enrolled. As per Unified District Information System for Education 2015-16 (provisional), the number of total children enrolled at elementary level has increased from 15.1 crores in 1998-99 to 19.67 crore at present.

Under SSA, provisions have also been made for residential schools/hostels and transportation/escort facility for children living in sparsely populated areas, children living in areas where schools cannot be opened due to unavailability of land and children in need of care and protection. Special training is also provided to all such children who are school dropouts and long absentees and they are enrolled in "back to school" camps.

Additionally, other strategies adopted under SSA such as strengthening school

infrastructure, improving pupil-teacher ratios, providing incentives like free textbooks, uniforms for eligible category of children and mid-day meal in schools have proved to be useful in increasing the enrolment of children in elementary schools.

To further work on this issue and in pursuance of a resolution adopted in the 63rd Meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) held on 19th August, 2015 under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, a Sub-Committee of CABE under Chairpersonship of Minister of State for Human Resource Development has been constituted to 'Devise Pathway for Re-Engaging Out of School Children' *vide* Order dated 06.11.2015.

It may also be noted that since enactment of the RTE Act, 2009, a renewed focus by all States and UTs was given to ensure that every child of the age of 6-14 years is enrolled in schools. Therefore, it is expected that the decline in out of school children would have been faster after 2011.

Opening of centres by Aligarh Muslim University

851. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has announced to establish its centres in other States also;
- (b) whether the Act of the University allows it to open its centres in North Eastern States; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) to (c) Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), like other Central Universities, is an autonomous organization which functions in accordance with its Act, Statutes and Ordinances. As per the provisions contained in the Section 12 (2) of the AMU Act, the University may, with the sanction of the Visitor and subject to the Statutes and Ordinances, establish and maintain such Special Centres, Specialized Laboratories or such other institutions for research or instruction as are necessary for the furtherance of its objects.

At present, there are three Centres of AMU which are located at Murshidabad, West Bengal, Malappuram, Kerala and Kishanganj, Bihar. There is no proposal to set up a new Centre of AMU.