

efforts of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

- (iv) **Uchchatar Avishkar Yojna (UAY)** - to promote innovation in IITs addressing issues of manufacturing industries; to spur innovative mindset; to co-ordinate action between academia and industry and to strengthen labs and research facilities.
- (v) **Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM)**- an instrument for self-actualisation providing opportunities for a life-long learning through massive open online courses.

The UGC undertakes maintenance of standards in teaching and research and quality assurance in Universities, Deemed to be Universities and Colleges through framing regulations and schemes and disbursing grants to the eligible institutions. The UGC has notified and amended several regulations with the objective of sustenance and improvement in the quality of higher education and for undertaking academic reforms. In order to encourage research and development in the country, the UGC is implementing several schemes, awards, fellowships, chairs and programmes.

(c) The Government is in the process of formulating a New Education Policy for which initially, it had constituted a Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy in October, 2015 under the Chairmanship of Shri T.S.R. Subramanian, former Cabinet Secretary to the Government of India which submitted its report in May, 2016. The Report of the Committee is available on the website of National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), which was the Committee's Secretariat. After perusal of the report of the Committee and the based on reports of various consultations as well as views and comments received, the Ministry prepared "Some Inputs for the Draft National Education Policy, 2016" which is available on the MHRD website. Both these reports have been treated as inputs for education policy formulation. The exercise of preparing a New Education Policy is still ongoing as the Government has recently constituted a Committee for preparation of the Draft National Education Policy under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan, which is due to submit its report soon.

Quality education in rural areas

707. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than fifty per cent of the rural population is young and children need quality education for their bright future;

(b) whether due to lack of good schools, they are not getting quality education and people have to send their children away from home to a city for quality education;

(c) whether fifty per cent of the people cannot send their children to cities because of their financial condition; and

(d) if so, the details of measures taken to overcome this problem and to provide quality education in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) to (d) Section 8 of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory elementary education to every child and puts obligation on appropriate Government to ensure good quality elementary education conforming to the standards and norms specified in the Schedule of the act. Education being concurrent list, the Central Government through the flagship programmes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) supports States/UTs to improve quality of education at elementary and secondary level respectively, irrespective of caste, religion or area.

In order to focus on quality education, the Central RTE Rules have been amended on 20th February, 2017 to include reference on class-wise, subject-wise Learning Outcomes, to serve as a guideline for States/UTs to ensure that all children acquire appropriate learning levels. The learning outcomes for each class at elementary stage in Languages (Hindi, English and Urdu), Mathematics,

Environmental Studies, Science and Social Science have been finalized and shared with all States and UTs. The learning outcomes are displayed in the respective schools and parents are also apprised. The teachers are also trained accordingly.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducts periodic national surveys of learning achievement of children in classes III, V, VII and X. Four rounds of National Achievement Survey (NAS) have been conducted so far for class V and three rounds for classes II and VII. On 13.11.2017 district-wise sample based NAS was conducted for learning outcomes for classes 3, 5 and 8 in all the States/UTs.

Further, Section 23(2) of the RTE Act has been amended to extend the period for training of untrained in-service elementary teachers to 31st March, 2019. As per above amendment, all untrained in-service teachers working in Government, Government aided, and Private un-aided schools should acquire minimum qualification as laid down by an academic authority, authorized by the Central Government, by

31st March, 2019. The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has been entrusted to conduct this training through ODL (Open Distance Learning) mode. The online D.El.Ed. course has already been started from 3rd October, 2017.

In addition to above, the Central Government, supports States and UTs on early grade reading, writing and comprehension, and early Mathematics programmes through a sub-programme of SSA namely 'Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat' (PBBB) in classes I and II. Further, the Government has launched Rashtriya Aavishkar Abhiyan (RAA) programme on 09.07.2015, *inter alia*, as a sub-component of SSA and RMSA, to motivate and engage children of the age group from 6-18 years in Science, Mathematics and Technology through observation, experimentation, inference drawing, model building, etc. both through inside and outside classroom activities.

To ensure access to children, all the States and UTs have notified area or limits of their neighbourhood norms, factoring in their state specific conditions, for opening of schools in accordance with the Central Rules. Under SSA, provisions have also been made for residential schools/hostels for example Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs), 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 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. Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, 2009 provides for admission of children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups in the neighbourhood private unaided schools in Class I or below to the extent of at least 25 per cent of the strength of that class.

The Centrally sponsored scheme of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) envisages universalizing access to secondary schools by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance (5 kilometre) of every habitation, improving quality of education through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms and removal of gender, socio-economic and disability barriers. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to the States/UTs for opening of New government secondary schools alongwith required infrastructure. As part of strengthening of existing government secondary schools (i) Additional Class Rooms, (ii) Science Laboratory, (iii) Library, (iv) Art and Craft Room, (v) Toilet Blocks, (vi) Drinking water provisions etc. are funded under the programme. Further, interventions like survey and identification of out of school children, awareness programmes, remedial teaching for learning enhancement, self-defence training for girls, provision of girls

toilets, introduction of vocational education at Secondary stage, etc. have also been supported under RMSA to improve quality of school education at secondary level. Further, there is provision of appointment of 1 Head Teacher and 5 Teachers for every new/upgraded secondary school and Additional teacher is also approved as per Teacher-pupil ratio to ensure rationalisation of teaching posts as per requirement of State Governments/UTs.

Further, for improving the quality of school education, the School Standards and Evaluation framework, known as 'Shaala Siddhi' has been developed by National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), to enable schools to evaluate their performance in a more focused and strategic manner and to facilitate them to make professional judgments for improvement.

Pension and arrears to employees of KVS

708. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has not extended the revised pension and arrears as per the Seventh Central Pay Commission to its retired employees;

(b) if so, whether arrears and allowances have not even been disbursed to serving employees of KVS;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to provide all benefits of Seventh Pay Commission to employees and pensioners of KVS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) to (d) Budget allocation to Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) for 2017-18 was made to meet the expenditure of salary/pension for its serving/retired employees as per 6th CPC scales of pay and allowances. The Government *vide* O.M dated 13.1.2017 had extended the revised pay scales in terms of the CCS (RP) Rules, 2016 to the employees of Quasi-Government Organizations, Autonomous Organizations, Statutory bodies etc. set up and funded/controlled by the Central Government subject to certain conditions. Having regard to the provisions of this O.M., a proposal for revision of the pay scales of the employees of KVS, as per the 7th CPC, was taken up with the competent authority which has agreed to the same subject to the condition that the additional funds to be made available would be only for the purpose of revised pay scales and not for the revised allowances and pension based on the 7th CPC.