

Human Resource Development was re-constituted on 8th September, 2017. There are 6 ex-officio members and 8 nominated members in the re-constituted NAC. The functions of the NAC are to advise the Central Government on implementation of the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 in an effective manner. The term of existing NAC is upto 7th September, 2019.

### **Children not attending schools**

520. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 3.81 crore children in the age group of 6 to 13 years are still not attending schools including those who have never attended and attended before;

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

(c) the details of steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) 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.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) commissioned an independent survey in 2014 through Indian Market Research Bureau (IMRB) to estimate out of school children across the country. According to estimate of the survey, in the age group of 6-13 years in the country, an estimated 60.64 lakh children were out of school.

The Independent Survey also captured the reasons for the out of school children. Poverty/Economic reason has been reported by 23.76% respondents. 'Child not interested in studies' has been reported as a reason for 18.38% out of school children. A gender-wise disaggregation of the reason reveals that a higher proportion of the girls are out of school because of the reason 'needed to help in domestic work or needed to take care of siblings' as compared to boys. A marginally higher proportion of boys are also out of school than girls for the reason 'child to supplement household income'. 'Education not considered necessary by the head of the household' is also reported by more households with an out of school female child (6.27%) as compared to households with an out of school male child (2.39%).

Government of India in partnership with the State and UT Governments have taken a range of initiatives to ensure that all children are enrolled in schools and

complete their elementary education. Under the erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Scheme Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and integrated scheme for school education-Samagra Shiksha from 2018-19 which has subsumed the three erstwhile Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE), financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for undertaking various activities to reduce number of out of school children including opening of new schools, construction of schools and additional classrooms, opening and upgradation of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV), setting up of residential schools/hostels, provision of transportation/escort facilities, free uniforms, free text books and undertaking enrolment and retention drives. Further, special training for age appropriate admission of out of school children and residential as well as non-residential training for older children, seasonal hostels/residential camps, Special Training Centres at worksites are also supported to bring out of school children to the formal schooling system. Also, mid day meal is provided to students at the elementary level of education. Further, under the student oriented component for the children with special needs, financial assistance is provided for identification and assessment of children with special needs, aids and appliances, braille kits and books, appropriate teaching learning material, stipend to girls students with disability, transport and escort facility etc.

#### **Appointment of Professors in Andhra University**

521. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the irregularities in the appointment of Associate Professors and Professors in Andhra University;

(b) whether Andhra University is going ahead with recruitment of Professors and Associate Professors even though there is no clarity on the Roster Points in spite of UGC's circular dated July 19, 2018 requesting all the universities to stop recruitment of academicians till further orders; and

(c) the reasons for calling every candidate for interview who have applied for the post?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that it is not aware of any irregularities in the appointment of Associate Professors and Professors in Andhra University. The UGC