

### SPECIAL MENTIONS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please read the subject and lay your Special Mentions.  
Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy; not present.

#### **Need for steps to revive education affected due to covid-19**

DR. AMEE YAJNIK (Gujarat): Sir, the Covid-19 breakout led to the closure of schools. It has affected the education of nearly 290 million children and already six million children are out of school. The immediate impact of the breakout is less attendance in schools. The Annual Status of Education Report, an annual survey, has mentioned in its recent study that many young children have not joined school and there is a sharp jump in out-of-school children in the 6-10 age group. This has gone up from 1.8 per cent in 2018 to 5.3 per cent in 2020 and for children up to 16 years from 4 per cent to 5.5 per cent. One of the reasons could be that parents have decided to keep their children at home to keep them safe.

The learning levels of children from low-income groups have suffered heavily. They have limited access to smart phones, TV, radio or textbooks.

Given this grave situation, the Government will have to bring back children to school and encourage the drop-outs to come to school. Even in normal situation, it is tough. With parents hesitant to send their children to school, this would require special efforts. There is an urgent need to focus on education by the Government with special focus on the girl child as they are likely to be out of school in larger numbers.

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Dr. Amee Yajnik.

#### **Need to revisit existing schemes to check severity of hunger and malnutrition in the country particularly amongst *Adivasis***

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Odisha): Sir, Global Hunger Index Report of 2020 ranks India 94 among 107 countries. India features even behind Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia among others. Out of the total 107 countries surveyed, only 13 countries fare worse than India including countries like Rwanda, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Liberia, Mozambique etc. According to the Report, 14 per cent of India's population is undernourished. The immediate impact of hunger and