

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2684

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2016

Right to Education

Patole Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao;Raghavan Shri M. K.;Singh Dr. Bhola;Tamta Shri Ajay

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the success of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has been facing any challenges/obstacles in the implementation of the said Act and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that No-detention Policy in schools has lowered the standard of education and if so, the details of the comments received by the Government from various States, details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) the details of the meetings/ consultations held with education experts/ stakeholders regarding this policy and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to amend the Right to Education Act in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government has received any request from various State Governments for additional funds for effective implementation of the said Act and if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (f) whether the Government is aware of the fact that a number of children are still out of schools or engaged in criminal activities and if so, the steps taken by the Government to bring such children back to school?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): Central Government reviews and monitors implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 periodically with the States and Union Territories at different fora, including the State Education Ministers' Conferences. Educational data on outcomes are collected through Unified District Implementation System of Education (UDISE) every year. The status of these evaluations and monitoring is placed in the public domain on the Ministry's website. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is the designated scheme to meet the objective of the RTE Act, 2009. The SSA was revised in September 2010 to conform to the RTE mandate. The combined RTE-SSA programme is reviewed twice every year by a Joint Review Mission (JRM) comprising independent experts and members of external funding agencies, covering all States by rotation. All States and UTs have issued notifications enforcing RTE Act, 2009. Since the RTE Act, 2009 came into effect from 1st April, 2010, 44,595 school buildings, 7,00,460 additional classrooms, 5,46,513 toilets and 34,671 drinking water facilities have been sanctioned to States and UTs under SSA programme to augment the school infrastructure for compliance with RTE Act. State-wise details showing improvement in Pupil Teacher Ratio, Student Classroom Ratio, Dropout rate and Out of school children are at Annexure-I.

The major challenge in meeting the objective of the RTE Act is ensuring quality education for all children at elementary level.

(c) & (d): The no-detention policy has resulted in improvement of retention of children in schools. This is reflected in decline in annual average dropout rate of children which is 4.15% at elementary level as per UDISE, 2014-15. Some States have requested for review of no-detention policy. Reports and views of several State Governments reflect that standard of elementary education has come down due to no-detention policy. State-wise details of the comments received from various States are at Annexure-II.

The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) Sub-Committee on Assessment & Implementation of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) and No Detention Provision under the RTE Act, 2009 constituted as per the Resolution passed in the 59th CABE in its meeting held on 6th June, 2012 under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Geeta Bhukkal, then Education Minister, Government of Haryana, after having a series of discussions with multiple stakeholders, State functionaries, organisation/individuals has submitted a Report which includes recommendation that given current systemic challenges and process inefficiencies, "No detention" provision should be implemented in a phased manner. Report of the Sub-Committee was placed before the CABE in its 63rd meeting held on 19th August, 2015 where it was decided to request all States/UTs to share their views on the No-Detention Policy. 22 States have so far given their views on the policy. Out of which 18 States have suggested that no detention policy should be reviewed. Another Sub-Committee under the Chairpersonship of Minister of Education, Government of Rajasthan has been

constituted on 26.10.2015 inter-alia, to review the feedback received from States/UTs on the No-Detention Policy Reports. There is no proposal at present to amend the RTE Act, 2009 in this regard.

(e): Section 7 of the RTE Act, 2009 provides that the Central and State Governments have concurrent responsibility for providing funds for carrying out the provisions of the RTE Act. Allocation of outlays of the States under SSA are made on the basis of the approved Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWP&B) prepared by the States based on their requirements. The central share released to States and UTs under SSA during the last five years and the current year is at Annexure-III.

(f): As per independent survey commissioned by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in 2014, 60.64 lakh children were out of school in the age group of 6 to 13. The survey indicates consistent decline in the number of out of school children from 134.59 lakh in 2005 to 60.64 lakh in 2014 in the same age group.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, 2.04 lakh primary and 1.59 lakh upper primary schools have been sanctioned towards universal provisioning of schooling facilities at elementary level. Preference for opening of school is given to tribal areas and areas with high concentration of SC, ST and minority population. In addition, 3609 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, which are residential schools for girls at upper primary level, have been sanctioned to the States, particularly in Educationally Backward Blocks for improving access to marginalised girls especially out of school. Under the 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 to enrol them back to school.

The provision of Mid-day-Meal to all children also helps to enrolment of out of school children. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has informed that they have launched a "Street to School Campaign" in 2014-15 through the States/UTs to focus on street children and to ensure their inclusion in the formal education system.