

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:597

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2011

FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION

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

(a): whether some State Governments including the Government of Gujarat have represented to the Union Government relating to the implementation of the RTE Act, 2009 including taking up of the task of providing free and compulsory education to the children as a national project;

(b): if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c): the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d): whether the State Governments are required to reimburse the fee of those students belonging to specified and economically weaker sections who are admitted to private unaided schools as mandated by the RTE Act;

(e): if so, the details thereof;

(f): whether the above item is not one of the items included under SSA funding; and

(g): if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the Government proposes to share this burden of State Governments arising out of the provisions of the RTE Act?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Dr. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b): The Government of Gujarat has stated that the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 should be implemented as a National Project by the Union Government, and the States should not be expected to pay more than 10% of the likely expenditure on its implementation.

(c): The Government has had consultations with the State Governments and other stakeholders on the implementation of the RTE Act. The Government has received approval for incurring an expenditure of Rs. 2.31 lakh crore over a five year period from 2010-11 to 2014-15 for implementation of the combined RTE-SSA programme. This includes Rs. 24,068 crore awarded to States especially for elementary education by the 13th Finance Commission. The remaining amount of Rs. 2.07 lakh crore would be shared between the Centre and the States in the 65:35 ratio. In the case of the States in the North Eastern Region, 90:10 fund sharing ratio between the Centre and the State would continue.

(d) & (e): As per provisions of Section 12(2) of the RTE Act, Unaided Private Schools providing free and compulsory education to children belonging to disadvantaged group and weaker section in pursuance of section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, shall be reimbursed expenditure so incurred by them to the extent of per child expenditure incurred by the State or the actual amount charged from the child whichever is less.

(f) & (g): The 13th Finance Commission has approved Grant-in- Aid to the States amounting to Rs. 24,068 crores during the period 2010-11 to 2014-15 for elementary education sector. The Finance Commission has stipulated the States to increase their expenditure on elementary education by 8% per annum. During the consultation meeting held with Education Secretaries of States on 25th April, 2011, it was suggested that the States can reimburse the expenditure under Section 12(2) from the 8% growth in expenditure envisaged by the 13th Finance Commission.