

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:148
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2012
FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION
Dhurve Jyoti;Patil Shri C. R.

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

- (a) whether some State Governments including Gujarat have urged the Union Government for declaring provision of free and compulsory education under RTE Act, 2009 as a national project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the State Governments are required to reimburse the fee of those students belonging to the economically weaker sections and other specified classes who are admitted to private unaided schools as mandated by the RTE Act and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the manner in which the Government proposes to share financial burden of the State Governments arising out of the provisions of the RTE Act since these are not included under SSA funding?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 148 TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.08.2012 ASKED BY SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE AND SHRI C.R. PATIL REGARDING FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION

(a) & (b): In the context of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, Chief Ministers of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh had written to the Prime Minister that the task of providing free and compulsory education to our children should be taken up as a national project by the Union Government.

(c): The RTE Act, 2009 is a legislation which became operative w.e.f. 1st April, 2010. The centrally sponsored flagship scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was already being implemented since 2000-01 with the objective of universalising elementary education in all the States/UTs. After the RTE Act came into being, the SSA norms have been revised to align with the provisions of the RTE Act. The funds sanctioned to the States/UTs under the SSA after the notification of the RTE Act, during the last three years is at Annexure – I.

(d): Section 12 (1) (c) of the RTE Act inter alia provides that an unaided private school shall admit in class I (or pre-primary class, as the case may be), to the extent of at least twenty-five per cent of the strength of that class, children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group in the neighbourhood and provide them free and compulsory elementary education till its completion. Section 12(2) provides that the unaided private schools shall be reimbursed expenditure so incurred to the extent of per-child-expenditure incurred by the State, or the actual amount charged from the child, whichever is less.

(e): In order to assist the States/UTs in the implementation of the RTE Act, the funding pattern between Centre and States under SSA has been revised to a 65:35 ratio for all States/UTs other than the North Eastern States for whom it is 90:10, for a period of 5 years from 2010-11 to 2014-15. In addition, funds to the tune of ` 24,068 crores have been made available to the States for this period by the 13th Finance Commission, for the implementation of the RTE Act.