

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1072

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT

Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Patel Shri Devji;Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

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

- (a) the salient features of the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act passed by the Parliament recently;
- (b) the funds spent/being spent by the Government for providing education to all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years, during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;
- (c) the extra funds required for implementation of the Act during the next five years, and the manner in which the funds required will be raised;
- (d) whether all the States and the private sector have also been asked to share the cost of fulfilling the commitment under the Act;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the State Governments/private sector in this regard;
- (f) whether the Government plans to bring Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan(SSA) under the Act;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) the steps taken or being taken by the Union Government to implement the Act?

Answer

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

(a): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 inter alia provides for the:

- i) Responsibility of the Central and State Governments and local authorities for free and compulsory elementary education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years.
- ii) Prescribed norms and standards relating to infrastructure, pupil- teacher ratios and other quality parameters.
- iii) Minimum qualifications for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher.
- iv) Curriculum and evaluation procedure conforming to values enshrined in the Constitution.
- v) School Management Committees to monitor the working of the school;
- vi) Mechanism for the protection of the rights of the child under the Act

(b): Government of India releases under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) & District Primary Education Project (DPEP) during the last three years and the current year for each State is given in Annexure I and II.

(c) to (e): The National University for Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) has, at the instance of the Government, prepared estimates for additional requirement of funds for a 5-year period from 2010-11 to 2014-15 for the implementation of the provisions of the RTE Act, which works out to Rs 1,71,484 crore. The RTE Act provides that the Central Government and the State Governments shall have concurrent responsibility for providing funds for implementation of the Act. Under the Act unaided schools are required to admit at least 25 per cent children belonging to disadvantaged groups and weaker sections from the neighbourhood in Class I and provide them free elementary education. The expenditure so incurred will be reimbursed to the extent of the per-child expenditure incurred by the State, or the actual amount charged from the child, whichever is less.

(f) & (g): A Committee on Harmonization of SSA with the RTE Act has been set up to examine the overall approach and implementation strategies under SSA and align the SSA vision, strategies and norms with the RTE mandate. The Committee has held five meetings and met with representatives of almost all the States during the course of its deliberations. The Report of the Committee is awaited.

(h): The Government has initiated several steps for implementation of the RTE Act, including preparation of financial estimates, consultations with State Governments and Civil Society Organisations, and preparation of 'Model' Rules under the Act.