

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1594
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013
ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTRES
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

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

- (a) whether the Government has released any funds for setting up of Alternative Learning Centres to facilitate mainstreaming of out of school children into formal education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of students that have been able to go back to school after attending these centres State/UT-wise; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) to (c): The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provided support to alternate schooling facilities under its Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative Innovative Education (AIE) components. The EGS centres were envisaged as a transitory measure to provide schooling to children in habitations unserved by a regular school, till such time that regular and full-time schooling facilities were provided in the area. The Right of children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which became operative on 1st April, 2010, provides that the appropriate Government shall establish a school in a neighbourhood as defined in the State RTE rules within a period of three years from the commencement of the Act. The SSA norms have, therefore, been revised to correspond with the provisions of RTE Act. The States have been advised to upgrade all EGS centres to regular Primary Schools by March, 2012, and no new EGS centres are being sanctioned with effect from 2010-11.

Instead of AIE centres, Special Training Centres are now being established for out-of-school children to ensure their age-appropriate enrolment and participation in regular elementary schools.

During the year 2012-13, an amount of Rs. 598.73 crore was spent for the coverage of 21,42,459 out of school children under Special Training and mainstreaming them in regular schools in age-appropriate classes. The Statewise details of the number of children covered are given in Annexure. Further, an amount of Rs.902.80 crore has been approved by Project Approval Board (PAB) for bringing 17,86,495 out-of-school children back to school in financial year 2013-14.