

(d) A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for reducing dropout rates. These include, *inter-alia*, strengthening of schools and improving quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, etc. The Mid-Day Meal programme also supplements the strategy to reduce dropout rates.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 has been enacted by the Parliament to provide for free and compulsory education to all children to the age group of six to fourteen years. The RTE Act has come into force from 1st April, 2010. The RTE Act, *inter-alia* provides that non-enrolled and dropout children to be admitted in an age appropriate class and provided education till completion of elementary education.

Demands of IIT faculty members

3138. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that faculty members of IITs went on hunger strike during last week of September, 2009 to air their grievances;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of their demands and those Government is willing to concede; and
- (d) the justification for not acceding to the other demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the members of the faculty associations of various Indian Institutes of Technology (NIITs), organized as the All India IIT Faculty Federation, were on relay-hunger strike on 24th September, 2009, to air their grievances against some of the decisions of the Government on the pay-structure of IIT faculty, scientific and design staff. However, normal teaching activities of the Institutes was not hampered as classes and laboratories functioned as usual.

(c) and (d) The major demands of the IIT faculty and the action taken by the Government are as under:—

Sl. No.	Demand	Action Taken
1	2	3
1.	The designation of Lecturers be done away with and the criteria for appointment to the post of Assistant Professor be relaxed to accommodate exceptional and deserving cases.	In a meeting of the Council of IITs held on 19.10.2009, it was decided to empower the Board of Governors to relax the condition of 'Ph.D. with first class at the preceding degree' and also experience in terms of number of

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years required for the post of Assistant Professors, Associate Professors and Professors, in exceptional and deserving cases, after recording the reasons in writing. However, the norms as indicated in the pay revision Order should be followed in general and the Committee of Directors should also lay down the criteria for relaxation within the framework of the approval accorded by the Competent Authority.

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| 2. Assistant Professors with 3 years of service may be placed in Pay Band-4 with a minimum of Rs. 37,400/-. | Demand accepted and notification issued on 16.09.2009. |
| 3. Academic Grade Pay of Rs. 10,000/- may be given to Associate Professors and Rs. 12,000/- with minimum of Rs. 48,000/- to Professors. | The pay structure of NIITs had been designed keeping in view the pay structure of other sections of the Government. This demand was not agreed to. |
| 4. The limit of 40% for Professor moving to the higher AGP of Rs. 12,000/- be done away with. | The Ministry has not notified any change in the limit of 40%. |
| 5. A scholastic pay of Rs. 15,000/- per month be given to all faculty irrespective of position or experience. | The pay revision of the IIT faculty <i>inter-alia</i> included a Performance Related Incentive Scheme (PRIS) which will be a financial remuneration to those who excel in the area of research. |

Shortage of qualified teachers in rural areas

3139. SHRI ANIL H. LAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a massive shortage of qualified teachers across Government run schools, mostly in rural areas;

(b) whether with the Right to Education Act in place, we need around 5,00,000 new teachers at an additional cost of Rs. 34,000 crore every year for a period of five years; and

(c) whether with the provision of Rs. 15,000 crore only for hiring additional teachers for 2010-11, the Centre expects the States to pitch in and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) There are around 5.23 lakh teachers' positions in