

(a) whether full and overall enforcement of Right to Education as a Fundamental Right requires establishment of more schools throughout the country as well as recruitment of more teachers in the existing schools as there are a huge number of vacancies; and

(b) if so, what does Government proposes to do to fulfil the deficiency of schools as well as teachers in order to truly enforce the Right to Education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 requires the appropriate Government and local authority to establish a school within such area or limits of neighbourhood, as prescribed by the appropriate Government, within a period of three years from the commencement of the Act. The actual number of schools required will therefore depend on the areas or limits of neighbourhood prescribed by the appropriate Governments.

The number of additional teachers required will be based on rational redeployment of existing teachers from schools where their numbers are surplus to schools where there is a shortage of teachers on the basis of the pupil teacher ratios prescribed in the Act. At the national level, it has been estimated that 5.08 lakh additional teachers would be required for implementation of the RTE Act, over and above the existing teacher vacancies in the State sector.

Vision 2020 Document for higher education

2183. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether to improve the quality of higher education in the country, the Union Government has asked State Governments to come forward with their "Vision 2020 Document" on targets to be achieved in higher education;

(b) if so, the response of State Governments in this regard;

(c) whether Union Government proposes to take any steps to improve the quality of higher education provided by State bodies and to remove the various malpractices in these educational institutions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) For the purposes of improving quality of higher education and preventing and prohibiting malpractices by all higher educational institutions in the country, except the institutions engaged mainly in agricultural education and research, Government has introduced two Bills in Parliament, namely, (i) The National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010, and (ii) The Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical Educational Institutions, Medical Educational Institutions and Universities Bill, 2010. These two Bills respectively provide for making accreditation mandatory for the purposes of improving quality and for prohibiting and punishing unfair practices by higher educational institutions.

Measures to check drop-out of students in schools

2184. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the drop-out rates at primary and secondary level schools as per latest information available with the Ministry;

(b) whether Government has carried out an exercise examining these causes, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government intends to take specific measures to deal with problem of teacher absenteeism in primary and secondary schools;

(d) whether Government thinks it appropriate to take specific measures to reduce drop-out rates among Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students in primary and secondary schools, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government thinks it necessary to extend Mid-Day Meal Scheme to Madarsa schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per information available with the Ministry, the dropout rates for the year 2007-08 at primary (classes I-V) and secondary (classes I-X) levels are 25.55 and 56.81 per cent. The socio-economic and school related factors mainly affect dropouts.