

- (b) whether Government has fixed any student-teacher ratio;
- (c) if so, the number of students for a teacher;
- (d) whether Central Government coordinates or intervenes with the State Governments if such shortage is reported; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (e) The Right to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which has come into force with effect from 1st April, 2010, provides for school-wise Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) of 30:1 at primary level and 35:1 at upper primary level which is required to be achieved in a period of three years.

To achieve the desired school-wise PTR, the Central Government has already advised States to redeploy teachers from excess to deficit areas. Since inception of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Programme in 2001-02, a total of 14,19,565 posts of teachers have been sanctioned to improve PTR.

Affiliating university system

627. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the affiliating university system is outdated and does not allow universities to do research seriously;
- (b) whether Government is also aware that the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has recommended to establish Central and State Boards of Undergraduate Education to replace the affiliating university system; and
- (c) if so, the steps being taken to move in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) Universities are required to perform various functions, which include teaching, research, extension and conduct of examination. University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified (Affiliation of Colleges by Universities) Regulations, 2009 in order to regulate and standardize the process of granting affiliation to Colleges by the Universities.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. However, there is no agreement on this aspect of the recommendations of National Knowledge Commission. Establishment of a Central Board of Undergraduate Education along with State Board of Undergraduate Education may also impose a lower common denominator on higher education at the undergraduate level, and would be against autonomy of higher educational institutions. In addition, it would not only divorce undergraduate higher education from the postgraduate studies and research, but would also lead to over-centralization, leading to adverse consequences on the relevance and updating of curriculum and, therefore, it is felt that undergraduate education must remain as integral part of the University System.