

Teachers for primary schools in rural areas

1943. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of shortage of qualified teachers for primary schools in rural areas;
- (b) whether Government has considered incentivising postings to rural areas for primary school teachers; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The additional requirement of teachers in elementary education, pursuant to the enforcement of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, has been estimated at 5.08 lakh. In addition, it is estimated that there are 5.23 lakh teacher vacancies in the State sector. These vacancies are required to be filled up within a period of three years from the commencement of the RTE Act. States/UTs have been advised to rationalize teacher re-deployment and expedite teacher recruitment to address the issue of teacher shortage. Further, it is estimated that 6.7 lakh teachers do not have the teacher qualifications prescribed by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE). The RTE Act provides for a period of five years within which all teachers should acquire the prescribed teacher qualifications.

(b) and (c) Teachers are recruited by the respective State Governments/UT Administrations as per their recruitment rules. The salary and allowances payable to teachers and the terms and conditions of their service, including their postings, are determined by the respective State Governments/UT Administrations.

Quality of food under Mid-Day-Meal Scheme

1944. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the quality of food provided under Mid-Day-Meal Scheme is of inferior quality and has compromised on the health and hygiene of children;
- (b) whether large number of children had fallen ill after taking such food in Delhi and other parts of the country;
- (c) whether Government has conducted inquiries into the irregularities in implementation of the Scheme;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon; and
- (e) the measures taken to ensure that the scheme is implemented in a proper manner and carefully monitored on regular basis?