

Quality of education under RTE Act

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

(a) whether Government has ensured quality of education especially in rural areas, while implementing the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to recruit quality teachers and to provide quality infrastructure?

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 has become operative with effect from 1st April, 2010. The RTE Act provides that every child in the 6-14 age group shall have a right to free and compulsory education till completion of elementary education. It prescribes norms and standards for Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR), school infrastructure and facilities. It lays down that the curriculum and evaluation process shall be in accordance with the values enshrined in the Constitution of India, and shall take into account the all-round development of the child, build on the child's knowledge, potentiality and talent, provide for learning through activities, discovery and exploration, and shall make the child free of fear, trauma and anxiety. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Framework of Implementation has been revised to correspond with the provisions of the RTE Act, 2009 in terms of provisioning for additional teachers, classrooms and facilities in schools, as well as quality interventions.

The additional requirement of teachers in elementary schools, pursuant to the enforcement of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, has been estimated at 5.08 lakh. To ensure the availability of quality teachers National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has laid down the teacher qualifications under section 23 of the RTE Act. States would need to follow the prescribed teacher qualifications in all future recruitments. One of the essential qualifications for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher is that he/she should pass the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) to be conducted by the appropriate Government. Guidelines for the TET have been notified, and are available on the website: www.mhrd.nic.in

Insurance for school teachers

535. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

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