

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) It is a fact that some seats remain vacant in some of the higher educational and vocational institutions due to a variety of reasons. Students tend to avoid the institutions with poor infrastructure or poor quality resulting in seats remaining vacant in these institutions. Some unpopular courses and programmes also invite less number of applications. Sometimes the sudden capacity expansion leads to seats remaining vacant for some time, as happened when the centrally funded educational institutions' capacity was expanded following the reservations provided to Socially and Educationally Backward Classes.

(c) The institutions are public funded, both by Central and State Governments. In addition, there are private aided and unaided institutions. Intake of seats in Universities is decided by Universities themselves. Central Government does not play any direct role in the matter. Consequently such data is not centrally maintained. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has reported that the data regarding number of vacant seats in technical institutions is coordinated by State Level Admission Authorities.

(d) and (e) While certain structural and academic reforms are certainly needed in the higher education sector, including vocationalization of general higher education, reforms specifically targeted to eliminating vacant seats may not be desirable, since the students need to have multiple choices to choose courses, programmes and institutions of their choice. A healthy competition amongst institutions is also necessary if the higher education system of India has to achieve quality and excellence, to meet the objective of creating a knowledge society.

Illtreatment of students admitted under RTE, Act

863. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that students admitted under RTE, Act are treated indifferently by some schools;

(b) if so, whether Government has received complaints in this regard;

(c) how many such cases have been reported so far in the country; and

(d) the details of steps being taken by Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) There have been sporadic media reports of segregation/discrimination of children admitted into private schools under Section 12 (1) (c) of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 that provides for 25% free admission and education to children of disadvantaged groups and weaker sections. Such matters are immediately referred by the Central Government to the concerned State/UT for enquiry and remedial action.

In the light of the RTE Act, the model rules framed by the Central Government provide that children admitted under Section 12(1)(c) shall not be segregated from the other children in the classroom, nor shall their classes be held at places and timings different from the classes held for other children. It further provides that the children admitted in pursuance of Section 12(1)(c) shall not be discriminated from the rest of the children in any manner pertaining to entitlements and facilities such as textbooks, uniforms, library and ICT facilities, extracurricular activities and sports.

The RTE Act provides for notifying local authority for grievance redressal and the setting up of a State Commission for Protection of Children Rights (SCPCR)/Right to Education Protection Authority (REPA) for monitoring of child's right to elementary education.

Imparting of primary education in mother tongue

864. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Government has issued any guidelines to State Governments conveying the views of experts in school education that primary education should be imparted through the mother tongue of students;
- (b) if so, the details of such guidelines;
- (c) if not, the views of Government in this regard; and
- (d) if the mother tongue is the language to be determined by the parents, whether Government proposes to open schools for those Indians who may declare the mother tongue of their children as French, German, Japanese or Chinese?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Section 29(2)(f) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides that the medium of instruction shall, as far as practicable, be in child's mother tongue.

Illtreatment of students admitted to schools under RTE

865. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry's attention has been drawn to the incidence of illtreatment of students particularly dalit students, admitted under RTE in a Bengaluru based private school;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the students admitted through RTE in various other privately managed schools throughout the country face the same harassments;