

(d) The Hon'ble Prime Minister had also emphasised that expansion should not be at the expense of quality. Precisely for this reason, Twelfth plan has laid emphasis on consolidation and quality improvement, rather than creation of new institutions. Since longevity is an inherent attribute of quality, especially in the context of universities, the new institutions are now focusing on quality and excellence.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been implementing a number of schemes aimed at raising standards of higher education in Indian Universities and colleges. It has taken up various measures for educational reforms, such as introduction of the Semester System, the regular updating of curricula and Choice Based Credit Systems (CBCS) etc, which have been implemented by most of the Central Universities. The UGC has also issued regulations on "Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2010" for improving the standards of teaching in Indian Universities. In order to improve quality of teachers and teaching, the National Eligibility Test (NET) and the State Level Eligibility test (SLET) have been made compulsory requirements, with the only exception being those who have completed Ph.D in accordance with UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil/Ph.D Degree), Regulations 2009.

The UGC has also notified the Mandatory Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions Regulations, 2012 which makes it mandatory for higher educational institutions to get themselves assessed and accredited.

The UGC (Promotion & Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutes) Regulations, 2012 have been approved by the UGC in order to raise standard of higher education in Indian universities by collaborating with the best institutions in the world.

#### **Student-teacher ratio**

97. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has fixed any ratio for students to teachers in the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the present student-teacher ratio in the country;
- (d) whether Government has compared this data with the data available abroad, especially in the developed countries;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government to improve the present situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which become operative with effect from 1st April, 2010, prescribes that the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) in schools should be maintained as per the following specified levels:

**A. For classes I to V:**

- (i) Two teachers for up to sixty admitted children
- (ii) Three teachers for 61-90 children
- (iii) Four teachers for 91-120 children
- (iv) Five teachers for 121-200 children
- (v) One Head Teacher, other than the five teachers, if the number of admitted children exceeds 150; and the PTR (excluding Head Teacher) shall not exceed forty if the number of admitted children is above 200.

**B. For Classes VI to VIII:**

- (i) At least one teacher per class so that there shall be at least one teacher each for (a) Science and Mathematics; (b) Social Studies; and (c) Languages.
- (ii) At least one teacher for every 35 children;
- (iii) Where admission of children is above 100, there shall be (a) a full time head-teacher and (b) part time instructors for Art Education, Health and Physical Education and Work Education.

(c) The Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) in 2011-12 was 311 for primary level and 29.1 for upper primary level.

(d) to (f) Pupil Teacher Ratios vary across countries, depending upon local conditions, curriculum and pedagogical practices, etc. Since the commencement of the RTE Act in 2010, over 7 lakh additional teacher posts have been sanctioned under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme, for elementary education.

#### **Schools approved under SSA in Andhra Pradesh**

98. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools approved under SSA in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years, year-wise and district-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that only two sections have been permitted in each class;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of financial allocation to each of the above schools in the last five years, year-wise and school-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The details showing the district-wise approvals of schools under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) during the last five years in Andhra Pradesh are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Initially, the approval for one section is given for each class; later on, depending upon the enrolment, more sections are approved/opened.

(d) Schools-wise release of funds is made by the State/district administration under the SSA. The year-wise financial allocation for school infrastructure during the last five years under the SSA to Andhra Pradesh by the Government of India is given below:

	Rs. in lakh					
Years	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Allocation	24605.88	21496.17	543.25	200.81	217.10	7264.50