The Government endeavours to improve the quality of school education in the country. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 has been operative with effect from 01.04.2010. The Act provides that every child in the 6-14 age group shall have the right to free and compulsory education. The Sarva Sikha Abhiyan (SSA) has been revised to correspond to the provisions of the RTE Act, 2009 in terms of the provision of additional teachers, classrooms and facilities in schools as quality interventions. The SSA has covered rural and backward regions extensively. The Rashtriya Madhyamik Sikshya Abhiyan (RMSA) launched in March, 2009 envisages inter-alia opening of new secondary schools (through up-gradation) and dispensing of additional schools with a special focus on backward areas. Interventions such as construction of school building, additional classrooms, laboratory, toilets etc. are provided under the RMSA. Since inception of the SSA, 19.83 lakh additional teacher posts have been sanctioned under the SSA upto 31.12.2012. 12.86 lakh teachers have been appointed so far. However, 6.97 lakh teacher posts were vacant as on 31.12.2012. Approvals have also been given for over 6 lakh untrained teachers for acquiring the prescribed professional qualification.

Directions to institutions derecognised as universities

†106. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the institutions which have been derecognised as universities by the UGC, State-wise;
- (b) whether these institutions have been issued or are proposed to be issued an order forbidding them to suffix the term 'University' with their name in their documents or asking them to declare/write 'not recognised by UGC' along with their names in their documents;
- (c) whether these institutes are still awarding various graduation or post graduation degrees; and
- (d) whether Government has already declared or would declare awarding of the said degrees by these institutes as a punishable offence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Section 2(f) of the University

[†]Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956 states that "University" means a University established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, a Provincial Act or a State Act, and includes any such institution as may, in consultation with the University concerned, be recognized by the Commission in accordance with the Regulations made in this behalf under this Act.

A University which is duly set up through a Central or State legislation can not be de-recognised by UGC. However, the University Grants Commission (UGC) publishes the list of universities which are not covered under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act as fake universities. The State-wise details of these institutions are available on the UGC website: www.ugc.ac.in.

- (b) The Section 23 of the UGC Act, 1956 states that no institution, whether a corporate body or not, other than a University established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, a Provincial Act or a State Act shall be entitled to have the word 'University' associated with its name in any manner whatsoever. In the case of Deemed-to-be-Universities, as per clause 20.0 of the UGC (Institutions Deemed-to-be-Universities) Regulations, 2010, the Deemed-to-be-Universities are not allowed to use the word 'University' suffixed to their names but may mention the words "Deemed-to-be-University". However, the matter is presently *sub-judice*.
- (c) As per Section 22 of the UGC Act, 1956, 'degree' means any such degree as may, with the previous approval of the Central Government, be specified by the Commission by notification in the official Gazette. The 21 fake universities which are existing in contravention of the provisions of the UGC Act do not have any right to confer or grant degrees.
- (d) The Central Government has introduced "The Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical Educational Institutions, Medical Educational Institutions and Universities Bill, 2010" in Parliament for prohibition and punishment of certain unfair practices in technical educational institutions, medical educational institutions and universities. The scope of unfair practices as defined in the bill includes the grant of degrees by institutions not authorized to grant degrees.

Requirement of teachers under RTE Act

†107. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under Right to Education Act, children between the age group of 6 to 14 years are being provided free and compulsory education;

[†]Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.