

(c) and (d) Since the inception of SSA, a total of 19.82 lakh teacher posts have been sanctioned against which over 14 lakh teacher posts have been filled upto 31.03.2013. The State/UT Governments have been requested to hold the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) on a regular basis, which is a mandatory requirement, so that the vacancies of teachers are filled at the earliest.

Provision to open distance learning

1301. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provision relating to open distance learning are contained in the IGNOU Act;

(b) whether this power under the IGNOU Act is being given to authorities under UGC Act;

(c) whether there is no provision of open distance learning in UGC Act;

(d) if so, how it is being shifted under UGC Act; and

(e) the reasons for not allowing authorities under IGNOU to exercise powers of open distance learning when the Act provides for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Under its Act, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has the statutory mandate for the determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in all Universities for all modes of education including the distance mode.

(d) and (e) The question do not arise in view of (c) above.

Teachers' ability test

1302. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to introduce any teachers' ability test for private or Government schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these tests would be conducted by Central or the State Government; and

(d) what would be the eligibility criteria?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) No, the Government does not propose to introduce any teacher's ability test for private or Government Schools. However, in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1) of Section 23 of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, the Central Government has notified the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) as the academic authority to lay down the minimum qualification for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher. Accordingly, the NCTE *vide* its notification dated 23rd August, 2010, as amended *vide* its notification dated 29th July, 2011, laid down the minimum qualification for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher for classes I to VIII. One of the eligibility criteria is that a person has to pass the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) conducted by the appropriate Government in accordance with the guidelines framed by NCTE. The Guidelines for the conduct of the TET were circulated to all the State Governments on 11th February, 2011 which has also been hosted on the website of the Ministry of Human Resource Development www.education.nic.in.

(c) and (d) In accordance with the provision under the said Act, the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) will be conducted by the appropriate Government in accordance with the Guidelines framed by the NCTE. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is conducting the Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) on behalf of the Central Government.

Infrastructural development of educational institutes

1303. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released for the infrastructural development of private / aided / unaided minority educational institutes in the Eleventh Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) whether the financial assistance to institutions under this scheme was provided to minority educational institutions in various districts of West Bengal, which has minority population above 20 per cent;