

Remedial teaching under RTE Act

1578. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Right to Education Act (RTE) addresses the need for remedial teaching only for students who enter school after the age of six years rather than ensuring remediation for all children who are behind the grade level;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Act allows schools to have significantly less than 25 per cent enrolment of disadvantaged students because it does not specify that 25 per cent needs to be maintained beyond the entry level;

(c) whether the Act does not adequately address the lack of quality teachers; and

(d) if so, what actions Government proposes to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Section 4 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for the admission of a child above six years of age in class I or a child who has not been admitted in any school or though admitted, could not complete his or her elementary education, in a class appropriate to his or her age. The Act provides for special training to children to enable them to enrol in the appropriate class.

(b) Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, 2009 mandates reservation in private unaided non-minority schools for children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups in admission to Class I or pre-primary, as the case may be, to the extent of at least 25% seats and to provide free education till the completion of elementary level.

(c) and (d) In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 23(1) of the RTE Act, 2009, National Council for Teachers Education (NCTE) has been notified by the Central Government as the academic authority to lay down the minimum qualifications required for a person to be appointed as a teacher. Accordingly, NCTE vide its notification dated 23.08.2010 (as amended from time-to-time) has prescribed the minimum qualifications for classes I to VIII and the passing of a Teacher Eligibility Test (TET), in order to be recruited as a teacher. Minimum academic and professional qualifications and qualifying the TET, has been done to ensure quality of teachers.

Ranking of Indian universities

1579. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that, out of 723 Indian universities, not even one figured in the world's top 200 universities;