

Comprehensive Evaluation, and improved teacher pupil ratios. The National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE), as the academic authority under the RTE Act has laid down minimum qualifications and passing of the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) for a person to be recruited as a teacher at elementary level.

(b) Under Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, a school shall admit in class I, to the extent of at least 25% of the strength of that class, children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group in the neighbourhood and provide free and compulsory education till its completion.

(c) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(d) The RTE Act provisions are applicable for Government, Government aided and private schools for classes I-VIII.

(e) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), till 30th September, 2014, 2,02,112 primary schools and 1,55,390 upper primary schools have been opened, and buildings for 1,77,432 primary and 1,02,628 upper primary schools have been constructed. In addition, 16,29,990 additional classrooms, 8,17,036 toilets have been constructed, and drinking water facility has been provided in 2,25,440 schools. A total of 19.85 lakh teacher posts have been sanctioned under SSA at elementary level to improve the PTR, against which 15.06 lakh teacher posts have been filled up. States/UTs are also supported for distribution of free textbooks to all children, two sets of uniforms to all girls, SC/ST and BPL boys, providing academic support through Block Resource Centre and Cluster Resource Centre as well as for a focussed programme to improve learning outcomes such as Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat.

Research-oriented and qualitative education

†1603. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether research-oriented and qualitative education has been lacking in the universities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Ministry to raise standard of the research-oriented and qualitative education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) The augmentation of research and development infrastructure in the university system is an ongoing endeavour. Rapid changes in

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scientific and technical fields, the information technology revolution and the process of globalization pose challenges that require continuous upgradation of research facilities.

(c) The Government has taken various measures for the promotion and growth of research in the country. In scientific areas, these include the continuous increase in successive plan allocations for scientific departments, the setting up of new institutions for science education and research, the creation of centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas in academic and national institutes, the establishment of new and attractive fellowships, strengthening of the infrastructure of Research and Development (R&D) in universities, encouraging public-private R&D partnerships, the recognition of R&D units and national awards for outstanding R&D for industries etc. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) had set up a Task Force for rejuvenation of Basic Scientific Research in Indian Universities under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M. Sharma. Based on its recommendations action for strengthening science based education and research in Universities has been initiated.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been providing financial assistance under its Special Assistance Programme (SAP) to university departments to put in place facilities to accelerate research in the country. The UGC is continually taking steps to encourage students to undertake research work. It has started the following schemes for promoting research work in universities: Infrastructure grants to Centre of Advanced Study (CAS)/Departmental Special Assistance (DSA)/ Departmental Research Support (DRS/Non-SAP Departments), Infrastructure grants to College with Potential for Excellence/Autonomous Colleges, Minor and Major Research Projects, Infrastructure Grants to National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accredited colleges, Networking Resources Centre, Dr. D.S Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Research Fellowship in Sciences for Meritorious Students, Basic Scientific Research, emeritus fellowships, etc. In addition, the UGC is providing fellowships to those candidates who have qualified the UGC National Eligibility Test (NET)/UGC-Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) NET.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), the overall quality of existing State higher educational institutions is sought to be improved by ensuring their conformity to prescribed norms and standards and adoption of accreditation as a mandatory quality assurance framework. RUSA *inter-alia* provides funding under the component Research, Innovation and Quality improvement.

MHRD is also funding research in the Social Sciences and Humanities through its various research councils, viz., the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), the

Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), the Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) and the National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI).

MHRD has also constituted the Council for Industry and Higher Education Collaboration (CIHEC) which will identify issues and opportunities and facilitate development of strategies and innovative instruments of collaboration between industry and Academia and endeavor to mobilize additional resources to support these initiatives.

Implementation of Right to Education Act

†1604. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the basic facilities of schools have been met under the Right to Education Act and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that the number of students is decreasing continuously in Government schools every year and if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise, during the last five years;

(c) the reasons for this decrease and the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the percentage of students who passed X and XII classes in Government schools during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Since the implementation of Right of the Child to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009 a total of 47,488 buildings 6,22,621 toilets 40,161 drinking water facilities have been sanctioned to State/ UTs under SSA programme to meet the objective of the RTE Act.

(b) and (c) There is a marginal decline in the enrolment in Government primary schools whereas the enrolment at upper primary level is showing increasing trend over last five years. The decline in the enrolment at primary level can be attributed to the reduction in the rate of growth of child population. A Statement showing year-wise and State-wise enrolment at primary and upper primary level is given in Statement-I (See below).

(d) A State-wise statement of pass percentage of student based on Unified District Education System for Education (U-DISE) data available is given in Statement-II.

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