

of the UGC Act, 1956 in different parts of the country. The lists of Fake Universities/unrecognized institutions are available on the UGC website www.ugc.ac.in. In addition the Bhartiya Shiksha Parishad, Lucknow, U.P. is also not recognized by the UGC under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act.

According to the UGC, some institutions are offering Undergraduate/Postgraduate degrees in various subjects which are not established under either Central/State or UGC Act and hence these Fake Universities do not have right to confer/grant any degree.

(d) and (e) No information is available with the UGC.

(f) As per the information received from the UGC, some of the action taken by UGC against these Fake Universities are as follows:

(i) For the awareness of general public/students/parents, the UGC puts up the list of fake institutions on its website. All self-styled unrecognized and unapproved institutions are cautioned that running of Undergraduate and Postgraduate degree courses and giving misleading advertisements shall attract severe action under the provisions of appropriate laws including the UGC Act and the Indian Penal Code, etc.

(ii) Cases have also been filed in various courts by UGC against fake universities/institutions.

(iii) The UGC in the interest of general public/students defends the cases in the court. Action relating to closing down the fake institution is to be taken by the concerned State Government and local authorities.

(iv) The UGC has also written to the Vice-Chancellor/Director/In-charge of the 21 fake universities to close down the fake institutions immediately.

(v) Reminder letters to the State/UT Principal Secretaries/Education Secretaries have been issued to take the appropriate action against the Fake Universities located in their jurisdiction.

Universalisation of elementary education

315. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, by March 31, 2015, elementary education was meant to be universalised;

(b) if so, whether there is still a large number of out-of-school children vacant teachings posts and many fear the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act itself may be in danger;

(c) if so, the response of Central Government thereto;

(d) whether Government has studied the survey conducted by the RTE Forum;

(e) if so, the findings thereof;

(f) whether contribution of States towards teachers' training has been negligible, despite the recommendations of Justice Verma Committee on teacher education; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI) : (a) India has achieved near universal elementary education. The number of children enrolled in the year 2009-10 at primary level was 13.34 crore and for the upper primary level the enrolment was 5.44 crore. The enrolment increased in the year 2012-13 to 13.47 crore at primary level and 6.49 crore at upper primary level.

(b) and (c) All States and UTs are actively implementing the objectives of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE) Act, 2009. As per an independent survey conducted in 2013, commissioned by this Ministry, the number of out of school children (OoSC), in the age group of 6 to 13 years is estimated at 60.64 lakh. There has been a reduction in the number of OoSC from 135 lakh in 2005 to 60.64 lakh in 2013. Under the SSA, 15.59 lakh teachers were recruited upto March, 2015 against 19.78 lakh sanctioned.

(d) and (e) The latest fifth draft report of RTE Forum was released in March, 2015. The report comments on the status of implementation of the RTE Act across the country. The report acknowledges that there has been advancement in implementing provisions of the RTE Act. However, it raises some concerns as well.

(f) and (g) In alignment with recommendations of the Justice Verma Committee recommendations, the National Council for Teacher Education has notified revised Regulations, Norms and Standards for teacher education programmes in November, 2014, in order to improve quality of teacher training. The State Governments/UTs and University systems have been sensitized on the revised norms.

Enrolment and retention of Muslim children

316. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a significant improvement in enrolment and retention of Muslim children in elementary education;