

The National Council of Educational Research and Training conducts National Achievement Survey (NAS) periodically to assess learning levels of children in classes 3, 5 and 8. Three rounds of NAS have revealed overall improvement in learning levels in various subjects in most of the States.

RTE Act, 2009 has made education a fundamental right of every child between the ages of 6 and 14 years and specifies minimum norms for schools in order to ensure quality education to all children. The RTE Act, 2009 and the centrally sponsored scheme of SSA have assisted the States and UTs in achieving near universal elementary education and improved elementary school infrastructure across the country.

Through the SSA, the Central Government, the State Governments and UT Administrations are being financially supported to address gaps and challenges in ensuring quality education to children in elementary classes through recruitment of additional teachers to improve the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR), regular annual-in-service teacher training to all teachers to update their skills and knowledge, support for Computer Aided Learning at upper primary level and regular academic support through Block Resource Centres and Cluster Resource Centres. Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat, a sub-programme under SSA has been launched to enhance the quality of foundational learning in languages and early Mathematics in classes 1 and 2 and a focused programme for Science and Maths at upper primary level under SSA is also being supported.

#### **Quality faculty for higher educational institutions**

3241. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to ensure adequate availability of quality faculty in all higher educational institutions and capacity building at all levels of employment; and
- (b) the incentives given to encourage the quality faculty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRANATH PANDEY): (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission (UGC), as per the UGC Act, 1956, is responsible for promotion and co-ordination of University Education, determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in Universities. To ensure adequate quality teaching faculties in Universities/Colleges, the UGC has notified rules and procedures containing Academic Performance Indicators (APIs) in the UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations. API scores are mandatory

qualifying benchmarks for Career Advancement Scheme and for direct recruitment of teachers and other academic staff in Universities and Colleges.

To maintain standards in Higher Education and to ensure quality teaching faculties in Higher Educational Institutions, the Central Government reviews minimum qualifications and teacher performance indicators from time to time. On the basis of such reviews, the UGC brings in amendments to APIs both for Career Advancement Scheme and for direct recruitment of teachers and other academic staff in Universities and Colleges. The last such amendments to APIs was effected through the notification of the 4th Amendment to the UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education), Regulations, 2016 dated 11th July, 2016.

UGC has, *inter-alia*, implemented the "Operation Faculty Recharge Scheme" wherein it recruits quality faculty through advertisements and posts them to various universities with a view to augment the research and teaching resources of Higher Educational Institutions.

#### **Tender for construction in IIT Delhi**

3242. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of tender for construction in IIT Delhi awarded during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the details of construction company, which are getting tender during the last three years;
- (c) whether it is a fact that contractors are getting the tenders colluding with the officers of CPWD; and
- (d) if so, what actions have been taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) and (b) IIT-Delhi has taken up three construction projects in the last three years and the current year. These are Lecture Hall Complex (LHC) and Two Engineering Blocks at Delhi and Innovation Centre for Education (ICE) in Rajiv Gandhi Education Centre at Sonapat (Haryana). The projects at Delhi have been entrusted to CPWD and the project at Sonapat to NBCC. While CPWD has awarded the works at Delhi to M/s B.L. Kashyap & Sons and M/s Nagarjun Construction Company, the Sonapat project has been awarded by NBCC to M/s NKG Construction Company.