(d) The contractual teachers are not appointed on permanent basis in KVS, though they too can apply as per eligibility against vacancies advertised by KVS for filling up of teaching posts on direct recruitment basis.

Vacancies of teachers and their absenteeism

1363. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding the number of vacancies of teachers in Government schools;
- (b) the initiatives taken by Government to fill up these vacancies in the absence of a Teacher Recruitment Commission;
 - (c) the percentage of teacher absenteeism in such schools; and
 - (d) the initiative taken by Government to curb teacher absenteeism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) to (d) The recruitment and service conditions, including monitoring of teachers' attendance are primarily in the domain of State Governments/UT Administrations. The Central Government has been consistently pursuing the matter of expeditious recruitment and redeployment of teachers with the States and UTs at various fora. Advisories on this issue have also been issued to States and UTs from time to time. The details of the vacant posts of teachers in Elementary schools are given in the Statement (See below).

The Central Government has also conducted two studies of teachers' attendance in 2006 and 2013. According to these two studies, the overall attendance of teachers

improved from 81.7% to 84.3% at primary level and from 80.5% to 81.3% at upper primary level. As per the study conducted in 2013, the main reasons for teacher absenteeism include: illness of a family member, health reason of teacher, residence far away from school, lack of transport suited to school timing, engaged in other economic activities (e.g. agriculture, business, tuitions, etc.), posting in a school not of the teacher's liking, participation in political/social activities, etc.

The steps taken by the Central Government to improve teachers' attendance include, *inter-alia*, monitoring teachers' attendance through School Management Committees/School Management Development Committees/Block Resource Centres/ Cluster Resource Centres. Further, the States like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh have initiated biometric attendance on pilot basis.

Status on teachers' vacancies under State and SSA as on 31.03.2017

Sl. No. State/UT		Vacancies		
50		By State	Under SSA	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	212	0	212
2.	Andhra Pradesh	12955	0	12955
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	58	366	424
4.	Assam	6888	13217	20105
5.	Bihar	82378	121556	203934
6.	Chandigarh	880	390	1270
7.	Chhattisgarh	47137	1369	48506
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	69	105	174
9.	Daman and Diu	0	33	33
10.	Delhi	5971	2122	8093
11.	Goa	0	0	0
12.	Gujarat	0	4039	4039

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1	2	3	4	5
13.	Haryana	10110	1821	11931
14.	Himachal Pradesh	1632	0	1632
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	5014	2194	7208
16.	Jharkhand	23662	54603	78265
17.	Karnataka	5154	9338	14492
18.	Kerala	0	1400	1400
19.	Lakshadweep	50	0	50
20.	Madhya Pradesh	31967	34556	66523
21.	Maharashtra	18671	0	18671
22.	Manipur	0	364	364
23.	Meghalaya	0	876	876
24.	Mizoram	1100	35	1135
25.	Nagaland	0	317	317
26.	Odisha	0	0	0
27.	Puducherry	767	0	767
28.	Punjab	18175	0	18175
29.	Rajasthan	23242	13347	36589
30.	Sikkim	0	0	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	3788	0	3788
32.	Telangana	14301	0	14301
33.	Tripura	4139	262	4401
34.	Uttar Pradesh	129287	95040	224327
35.	Uttarakhand	2991	4587	7578
36.	West Bengal	32661	55120	87781
<i>.</i>	Total	483259	417057	900316

Source: AWP&B and PAB minutes 2017-18.