

To increase the number of students in the field of research and development activities, the Government has taken the following steps:—

- (i) Enhancement of fellowship amount: The fellowship amount has been enhanced for Ph.D and Post Doctoral studies by 55% with effect from 1.12.2014 and further enhanced by 25-35% from 1.1.2019. Enhancement in the fellowship amount has been the highest in these 5 years.
- (ii) Fellowship slots: Based on the demand, slots under the existing fellowship schemes have been increased.
- (iii) New fellowship schemes launched:—
  - Prime Minister's Research Fellowship.
  - Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Post Doctoral Fellowship for research in Humanities and Social Science.
  - Swami Vivekananda Single Girl Child Fellowship for research in Social Science.
  - National Fellowship for Other Backward Class (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment).

**Evaluation of difficulties faced by schools in rural and remote areas**

523. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to constitute a Committee of Experts for proper evaluation of difficulties faced by schools in rural and remote areas in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government of India has launched the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha-an integrated scheme for school education throughout the country with effect from 2018-19. This programme subsumes the three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE). It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. The States and UTs are assisted by the Central Government to implement the Samagra Shiksha as a programme for providing universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category

gaps in education and enhancement of learning level of children at all levels of school education, and for implementation of the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. Under the Samagra Shiksha, provisions have also been made for residential schools/hostels and transportation/escort facility for children living in sparsely populated areas, children living in areas where schools cannot be opened due to unavailability of land and children in need of care and protection. The Samagra Shiksha scheme was formulated based on the learning from evaluation of the erstwhile schemes of SSA, RMSA and Teacher Education conducted in 2017-18.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha has an inbuilt concurrent evaluation and monitoring system through review of physical and financial progress, annual audit, regular CAG audit and regular review meetings with all States and UTs. Also, an all India Performance Audit on Implementation of RTE Act, 2009 was conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) for the period extending from 2010-11 to 2015-16 and accordingly Report No. 23 of 2017 has been laid on the Table of the Parliament on 21.07.2017.

#### **PTR and SCR in Government schools**

524. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Government run schools have failed to ensure Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) and the Student Classroom Ratio (SCR) which is in violation of the Right to Education Act and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this is due to shortage of space in schools for instructional purposes and shortage of teachers and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has constituted any monitoring mechanism to ensure that the spirit of the Act is not diluted and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) Section 19 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides the norms and standards for a school as specified in the Schedule to the Act. The Schedule lays down Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) for both primary level (Class I to V) and for upper primary level (Class VI to VIII). At primary level, the PTR norm is 30:1 and at upper primary level it is 35:1. The Schedule also lays down that school building should consist of at least one classroom for every teacher and an office-cum-store-cum-Head teacher's room. The States and UTs, defined as the 'appropriate