

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

Governments' under the Act, are implementing the provisions of the RTE Act, 2009 through their respective State RTE Rules.

As per the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) 2015-16, the Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) at National level for primary schools is 23:1 and upper primary schools is 17:1. As per UDISE 2016-17 (Provisional), overall 79.41% and 69.59% of Government elementary schools in the country have PTR and Student-Classroom Ratio (SCR) respectively as per RTE norms.

The Department of School Education and Literacy has launched an Integrated Scheme for School Education – Samagra Shiksha, subsuming three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE), which is effective from 1st April, 2018. The main objectives of the scheme are provision of quality education and enhancing learning outcomes of students, bridging social and gender gaps in school education, ensuring minimum standards in schooling provisions, support States in the implementation of RTE Act, 2009 and strengthening of teacher education institutions.

In order to further improve the PTR 19.33 lakh posts of additional teachers were sanctioned under erstwhile scheme of SSA, out of which 15.16 lakh teachers have been recruited by the States and UTs till March, 2017. For improving SCR in Government elementary schools, 18.90 lakh additional classrooms (ACRs) were sanctioned to the States and UTs under erstwhile scheme of SSA till 2017-18 and under Samagra Shiksha effective from 2018-19. Out of these, States and UTs have reported construction of 18.08 lakh ACRs till 30.09.2018.

Recruitment, service conditions and redeployment of teachers are primarily in the domain of respective State Governments and Union Territories (UT) Administrations. The Central Government has been consistently pursuing the matter of 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 steps taken by the Central Government to improve teachers' performance include, *inter alia*, regular in-service teachers' training, induction training for newly recruited teachers, academic support for teachers and monitoring teachers' attendance through School Management Committees/School Management Development Committees/Block Resource Centres/Clusters Resource Centres. States and UTs are also encouraged to use digital technology like installation of bio-metric attendance system in schools. Status of infrastructure facilities including construction of school buildings is monitored regularly through quarterly progress reports from States and UTs. The Ministry also

monitor progress on various educational indicators including PTR and construction of classrooms in meeting of Project Approval Board, State Education Secretaries Conference etc.

**‘Sabko Shiksha, Achchi Shiksha’ initiative**

†525. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a revolutionary step to provide 'Sabko Shiksha, Achchi Shiksha';

(b) if so, the aims and objectives thereof; and

(c) the aspects of education which would be focused upon through this initiative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has taken several initiatives to provide ‘Sabko Shiksha Achchi Shiksha’ *i.e.* for making available good quality education, accessible and affordable for all. In pursuance of the proposal of the Union Budget, 2018-19, to treat school education holistically without segmentation from pre-school to class XII, the Department of School Education and Literacy has launched the Samagra Shiksha - an Integrated Scheme for School Education as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with effect from the year 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).

Samagra Shiksha 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. It envisages the ‘school’ as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels. The main emphasis of the scheme is on improving quality of school education and the strategy for all interventions would be to enhance the learning outcomes at all levels of schooling. The objectives of the Samagra Shiksha are (i) Provision of quality education and enhancing learning outcomes of students; (ii) Bridging Social and Gender Gaps in School Education; (iii) Ensuring equity and inclusion at all levels of school education; (iv) Ensuring minimum standards in schooling provisions; (v) Promoting Vocationalisation of education; (vi) Support States in implementation of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009; and (vii) Strengthening and up-gradation of SCERTs/State Institutes of Education and DIET as nodal agencies for teacher training.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.