

Vacancy of reserved seats in schools under RTE Act, 2009

1310. SHRI M.V. SHREYAMS KUMAR: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of seats provided in each State under section 12(1) (c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 which guarantees that private schools shall admit 25 per cent of children belonging to weaker and disadvantaged communities and provide free and compulsory education;

(b) the number of seats lying vacant in the current year, if any, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to ensure all such seats are filled?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) to (c) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, mandates the appropriate Government to provide free and compulsory elementary education to every child of the age 6 to 14 years in a neighbourhood school. Section 12(1)(c) of RTE Act, 2009 provides for admission of children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups in the schools specified in sub-clauses (iii) and (iv) of clause (n) of section 2 in Class I (or below) to the extent of at least 25 percent of the strength of that class.

For implementation of Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, the respective State and UT Government which is the appropriate government under the RTE Act, is required to notify the disadvantaged groups and weaker sections, notify per child cost and start admissions in private un-aided schools as per the laid down procedure.

The Central Government is supporting States and UTs for reimbursement of expenditure incurred towards payment made to private schools for admission of children under Section 12(1)(c) from 2014-15. Ministry of Education vide letter no 12-5/2016-EE. 11 dated 25.05.2016 and D.O. letter No. 12-12/2018-IS-5 dated 13.11.2018 has requested States/UTs to carry out a ground assessment of private unaided schools across the country to ensure compliance with the provisions of Section 12 of the RTE Act, 2009. Further, Ministry of Education, in various meetings like State Education Secretaries Conference, Regional/State workshops, Project Approval Board Meetings, has been advising/ guiding State/ UT Governments on implementation of Section 12 of the RTE Act, 2009.