

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:- 1780
ANSWERED ON-07/08/2024

Shortage of teachers

1780 Dr. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has considered alternative methods to address the shortage of trained teachers, in light of the Supreme Court's ruling on the NIOS's ODL course;
- (b) the details of the funds allocated and utilized for the elementary education diploma programme over the last three years;
- (c) the details of measures taken by Government to address the impact on teachers who completed this diploma programme; and
- (d) the details of measures taken to prevent similar discrepancies in future educational programs, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Act, 2017 provides that every teacher appointed or in position as on the 31st March, 2015, who does not possess minimum qualifications as laid down in the Act, shall acquire such minimum qualifications by 31.03.2019. In order to enable the untrained in-service teachers to acquire minimum qualifications by 31st March, 2019, the 18-month D.El.Ed (ODL) Course was conducted during the academic sessions 2017-19 by NIOS.

The Ministry of Education and the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), had circulated to all States/UTs to consider the 18-month D.El.Ed (ODL) conducted by NIOS for fresh appointment in compliance of the judgement dated 21.01.2020 passed in CWJC No. 19842 of 2019 by the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Patna. However, the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide judgement dated 28.11.2023 issued in SLP(C) Nos. 23583-84 of 2022 has held that the 18 month D.El.Ed (ODL) is not equivalent to the regular 2 year D.El.Ed Course. The cited judgement affects only those untrained in-service teachers who had undergone the D.El.Ed (ODL) Course conducted by NIOS during the academic year 2017-2019.

As the D.El.Ed (ODL) programme for untrained in-service teachers was executed and completed by NIOS by 31st March, 2019, no funds have been allocated or utilized for the last three years.

(d): The NCTE is the academic authority to develop teacher education programmes across the country in terms of the RTE Act, 2009, as amended, from time to time. Before introducing any educational programme, a number of activities like handholding sessions, interaction with stakeholders, pilot tests, research studies, periodic reviews, and etc. are undertaken to avoid possible future discrepancies.
