

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No - 2915
ANSWERED ON - 26/03/2025

CASTE-BASED DISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOLS

2915 SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received reports of caste-based discrimination in schools in the last five years, and, if so, the State-wise number of complaints received and the action taken thereon;
- (b) whether Government monitors the implementation of anti-discrimination provisions under the RTE Act, 2009, and if so, the State-wise details of measures taken;
- (c) the State-wise number of teachers trained under sensitization programs to prevent caste discrimination and whether Government has conducted any assessment of their effectiveness?

A N S W E R

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

(a) & (b): Education is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and schools, other than those owned/ funded by Central Government, are under the jurisdiction of the State Governments. The matters relating to discrimination against children from poorer sections and disadvantaged groups and related matters are regulated in terms of Rules and Instructions of the respective State Government concerned.

The Right to Education Act, 2009 has various provisions which prohibit discrimination in education. These include: -

- i. Sections 8(c) and 9(c) of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 make it obligatory for the appropriate government and local authority to ensure that the child belonging to weaker section and the child belonging to disadvantaged groups are not discriminated against and prevented from pursuing and completing elementary education on any grounds.

- ii. Under rule 9 (4) of Central RTE Rules, 2010 for UTs without legislature and schools under administrative control of Centre Government, it has been mandated that for the purposes of clause (c) of section 8 and clause (c) of section 9, the appropriate Government and the local authority shall ensure that a child belonging to a weaker section and a child belonging to disadvantaged group is not segregated or discriminated against in the classroom, during mid-day meals, in the play grounds, in the use of common drinking water and toilet facilities, and in the cleaning of toilets or classrooms.
- iii. Further, under rule 11(2) it is mandated that the school referred to in clauses (iii) and (iv) of clause (n) of section 2 shall ensure that children admitted in accordance with clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 12 shall not be discriminated from the rest of the children in any manner pertaining to entitlements and facilities such as text books, uniforms, library and Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) facilities, extra-curricular and sports.

The RTE Act emphasize the creation of a system for accountability and redressal of grievances including related to corporal punishment or discrimination and harassment of children.

Further, the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE), 2023 stipulates that any form of discrimination based on religion, caste, gender and community beliefs, disability, or any other factor, is unacceptable.

A manual has been developed by NCERT to create awareness on roles and responsibilities of School Management Committee (SMC) members. The manual details the issues of discrimination and concerns related to socially disadvantaged group, particularly issues and concerns of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes children.

(c): Under National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA), teachers are trained and sensitized to induce rightful teaching methods for avoiding discrimination amongst students. The NISHTHA Elementary program includes 18 courses including **Curriculum and Inclusive Classroom** and **Understanding Rights, Child Sexual Abuse and The POSCO Act**. These courses sensitize teachers towards inclusive education and child rights. The details regarding teachers trained under NISHTHA Elementary/Secondary/FLN/ECCE, State/UT wise are given in ANNEXURE-I.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2915 TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025 ASKED BY SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING "CASTE-BASED DISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOLS".

Teachers trained online under NISHTHA Elementary/Secondary/FLN/ECCE programmes conducted by NCERT, State-wise

States/UTs	No. of Certificates Issued
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8275
Andhra Pradesh	157433
Arunachal Pradesh	8970
Assam	67556
Bihar	548221
Chandigarh	8635
Chhattisgarh	184009
Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	3963
Delhi	50281
Goa	16392
Gujarat	236473
Haryana	104505
Himachal Pradesh	37682
Jammu and Kashmir	195671
Jharkhand	145321
Karnataka	338300
Kerala	1255
Ladakh	8584
Lakshadweep	678
Madhya Pradesh	433987
Maharashtra	202915
Manipur	22422
Meghalaya	25604
Mizoram	6509
Nagaland	10894
Odisha	266018
Puducherry	7297
Punjab	53774
Rajasthan	471906
Sikkim	8369
Tamilnadu	2596
Telangana	95707
Tripura	26897
Uttar Pradesh	757209
Uttarakhand	54364
West Bengal	1709
Total	4570381

Source : NCERT
