

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3576
ANSWERED ON-02/04/2025

Shortage of teachers in tribal and rural areas

3576 **DR. FAUZIA KHAN:**

Will the Minister of **EDUCATION** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any assessment of the teachers required in rural and tribal schools, and, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there is a noticeable shortage of teachers in rural schools in Maharashtra, leading to instances where schools have been closed due to the absence of teachers and, if so, the number of such schools;
- (c) the district-wise details of vacant teaching positions in Maharashtra;
- (d) the measures taken to fill these vacancies; and
- (e) the steps taken to improve education quality in rural areas?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Education being a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, an overwhelming majority of the schools in the country comes under the administrative control of States/UTs. The recruitment, service conditions and rational deployment of teachers come under the purview of the respective State Governments/UT Administrations. Samagra Shiksha norms provide for States/UTs to undertake a deployment of teachers through a transparent online platform to ensure that the RTE stipulations are adhered to and school teachers spend adequate time serving in rural areas.

Opening, closing and rationalisation of schools are within the purview of respective State Government and UT Administration. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides children's access to elementary schools within the defined area or limits of neighbourhood. In pursuance to Section 6 of the RTE Act, all States have notified area or limits of their neighbourhood norms. Further, Section 8 of the RTE Act, 2009 also mandates that the appropriate government shall provide free and compulsory elementary education to every child and will ensure availability of neighbourhood schools.

Recruitment is a continuous process and vacancies arise due to a number of factors like retirement, resignation, increased requirement of teachers because of the enhanced students' strength, etc. The Government also requests States/UTs to fill vacant posts of teachers, from time to time, to ensure timely recruitment of teachers by adopting a transparent and merit-based process through autonomous teacher recruitment boards.

The progress regarding filling up of teacher vacancies through a competitive selection examination conducted by States/UTs, with due care for consistency and sanctity and after a technology based comprehensive teacher requirement planning and forecasting exercise, is periodically reviewed through regular meetings with States/UTs as well as through advisories.

The Central Government through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, provides financial assistance to the States and UTs to maintain appropriate Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) for various levels of schooling as well as for opening of new schools, as per norms prescribed in the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, as amended from time to time. This assistance is provided on lump sum basis as per scheme norms.

(e) The Central Government provides support to all States/UTs for providing quality education in the country, including in rural areas, in alignment with NEP 2020 through its autonomous/Statutory bodies, i.e. NCERT, CBSE, KVS, JNV, NIOS and NCTE and its centrally sponsored schemes of Samagra Shiksha, PM Poshan, ULLAS, STARS and PM SHRI and central sector scheme of National Means cum Merit Scholarships. Some of the other major steps taken in this regard are:

- In pursuance of the recommendations of the National Education Policy, 2020, the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has notified four (04) year Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) on 26 October 2021, as a 4 Year dual-major holistic undergraduate degree.
- The Government has released a Guiding Document on the National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST). NPST defines competencies of teachers at different stages/levels. Braille and audio versions of the Guiding Document have been launched as a part of inclusive education efforts of the Department.
- The Government has launched bluebook on the National Mission for Mentoring (NMM). The Bluebook on NMM contains the various modalities for mentoring of schoolteachers for enhancing their capacity building. Braille and audio versions of the Bluebook have been launched as a part of inclusive education efforts of the Department.
- The Department has aimed to upgrade all 613 functional DIETs of the country into Centers of Excellence in a phased manner. For the purpose, 125 DIETs have been approved for upgradation with a budget of Rs. 92,320.18 Lakhs for the FY 2023-24 under the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha.
- NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) - an integrated teacher training programme designed by the NCERT for training of teachers has been launched. NISHTHA has been further extended to NISHTHA 2.0, ECCE and FLN.
- Under Skill Education component of 'Samagra Shiksha', NSQF aligned skill courses are offered to the students from class 9th to 12th in the schools covered under the scheme. So far, 138 Job Roles have been approved for introduction as Skill subjects to school students for Class IX to XII.
- Employability Skill modules including Communication Skills, Self-Management Skills, Information and Communication Technology Skills, Entrepreneurship Skills, and Green Skills have been made a mandatory part of skill subject.
- ₹81.90 Cr has been allocated to States/UTs for skill exposure in Classes 6 to 8 for FY 2024-25. Hub and Spoke Model has been introduced.
- Guidelines for 10 Bag less Days for students have been issued.

- National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) has been launched for ensuring Fundamental Literacy and Numeracy.
- National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF FS) has been launched. Learning Teaching Material (Jadui Pitara) along with its digital version and Textbooks for classes I and II developed.
- National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) released on 23rd August 2023.
- PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) to fulfil the objectives of setting norms, standards, guidelines and implement activities related to student assessment has been set up.
- PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan to evaluate children's progress and learning competencies held on 04th December, 2024.
- The Competency Based Assessment for Holistic Development, the Holistic Progress Card for the Preparatory, Foundational, Middle and Secondary stage have been prepared.
- A 73 indicator-based matrix Performance Grading Index (PGI) has been developed to grade the States/UTs. District level Performance Grading Indices (PGI) have been prepared and a Web application for compilation of PGI-District has been developed.
- VIDYA PRAVESH-Guidelines for Three-month Play-based School Preparation Module for Grade-I Children have been released.
- To enhance the monitoring of educational activities and outcomes, a central AI-driven big data analytics platform, Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK), launched on 06.09.2020.
- Under PM e-VIDYA, DIKSHA is the one nation, one digital education infrastructure. All states/UTs have been onboarded in DIKSHA.
- 12 DTH Channels of SWAYAM PRABHA for School Education are meant to support and reach those who do not have access to the internet have been extended to 200 channels.
- National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has introduced Indian Sign Language as a subject at secondary level.
- Under Samagra Shiksha approaches such as remedial teaching and bridge courses have been used at the elementary level and more progressive approaches such as the Learning Enhancement Programme are implemented by identifying the learning gaps and equipping students with the core learning pre-requisites for the particular grade.
- Implementation of a scheme "New India Literacy Programme or ULLAS" targeting all non-literates aged 15 years and above.
- Vidyanjali, school volunteer management program, initiated to strengthen Government and Government aided schools through community and private sector involvement across the country.
- The Union Cabinet has approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) on 7th September, 2022. These schools are to highlight all the initiatives of National Education Policy 2020 and emerge as exemplar schools over a period, and offer leadership to other schools in the neighborhood.
