

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:- 2768
ANSWERED ON-12/08/2026

Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) for primary school teachers

2768 Shri Sanjay Singh:

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

- (a) State-wise number of primary school teachers appointed before 23 August 2010 who are presently required to qualify Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) by 31 August, 2028;
- (b) whether Government has assessed the number of teachers with more than 15–30 years of service whose employment may be jeopardised if they do not to qualify TET by 31 August, 2028, if so, details thereof;
- (c) how many representations has the Ministry received from teachers' associations and State Governments seeking exemption for pre-2010 teachers, and action taken thereon; and
- (d) whether any proposal is under consideration to safeguard the service security of teachers appointed before 23 August, 2010?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Education is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and the recruitment, service conditions and deployment of teachers fall within the administrative domain of the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The information relating to teachers appointed prior to 23.08.2010 who are required to acquire the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) qualification by 31.08.2028, including the number of such teachers, is maintained by the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide its judgment dated 01.09.2025, inter alia, held that the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) is one of the minimum qualifications prescribed under Section 23 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, and is mandatory for appointment as a teacher in schools covered under the Act. The Hon'ble Supreme Court further directed that eligible teachers shall acquire the prescribed TET qualification within the timeline specified in the judgment. The order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court may be accessed at the following link:

https://api.sci.gov.in/supremecourt/2018/36466/36466_2018_9_1501_63764_Judgement_01-Sep-2025.pdf

Subsequently, while disposing of the review petitions in the matter, vide judgment dated 29.05.2026, the Hon'ble Supreme Court extended the timeline for acquisition of TET qualification from 31.08.2027 to 31.08.2028. The Hon'ble Supreme Court further observed that the respective appropriate Governments/authorities should endeavour to conduct the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) periodically, preferably twice every year, with an interval of approximately six months between successive examinations, so as to afford eligible teachers a reasonable opportunity to comply with the prescribed minimum qualification. The judgment dated 29.05.2026 may be accessed at the following link:

https://api.sci.gov.in/supremecourt/2025/53434/53434_2025_7_1501_71637_Judgement_29-May-2026.pdf

The Hon'ble Supreme Court, while taking into consideration the practical difficulties faced by in-service teachers recruited prior to the enactment of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, invoked its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution of India and directed that such teachers who have less than five years of service remaining, as on the date of the judgment dated 01.09.2025, may continue in service till attaining the age of superannuation without acquiring the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) qualification. The Hon'ble Court further clarified that such teachers shall not be eligible for promotion unless they acquire the prescribed TET qualification.
