

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3846  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018**

**Government Primary Schools**

†3846. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of Government primary schools has declined in the country and the reason behind the same is preference of parents for private schools;
- (b) if so, the details of the primary schools closed in the country during the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the steps taken to improve the basic infrastructure in the schools and to meet the shortage of teachers and the number of schools in the country having electricity facility; and
- (d) the Right to Education Act is getting less effective due to growing dominance of private schools and whether the Government is considering to implement uniform education system and if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)**

(a) & (b): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 which came into force from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010 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 and schools are sanctioned to them accordingly. Further, the RTE Act, 2009 also mandates under Section 8 that the appropriate government shall provide free and compulsory elementary education to every child and will ensure availability of a neighbourhood schools.

As per Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE), the number of primary schools has slightly declined from 7.12 lakh in 2014-15 to 7.08 lakh in 2015-16. The opening and closing of schools are within the purview of State Governments and UT Administrations. Information regarding primary schools closed in the country is not maintained Centrally. Some States and UTs are undertaking an exercise to positively consolidate schools with a view to strengthen elementary education and for optimum utilization of resources. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has emphasized that the States and UTs need to take adequate safeguards to ensure that neighbourhood access of any child is not affected by this exercise.

(c): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 under Section 19 provides for norms and standards for a school. The appropriate Governments have the responsibility and mandate to provide school infrastructure including drinking water facility and toilets in schools as per the RTE norms. All States and UTs have been advised to comply with the provision of the RTE Act, 2009 which inter alia states that every school building should have safe and adequate drinking water facilities for all children; and separate toilets for boys and girls.

The Ministry supports States and Union Territories (UTs) for creation and augmentation of infrastructure facilities including drinking water, toilet facilities and electrification in schools across the country at elementary level through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). As per UDISE(2015-16), a total of 6,01,130 schools (55.82 %) at elementary level have electricity facility.

The recruitment, service conditions and deployment of teachers are primarily in the domain of the State Governments/ UT Administrations. The Central Government through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides assistance to the States/ UTs for additional teachers to maintain appropriate Pupil Teacher Ratio as per the norms of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. However, the Central Government has been consistently pursuing the matter of expeditious recruitment and redeployment of teachers with the States/UTs at various forums. Advisories to implement the norms of the RTE Act have also been issued to States/UTs from time to time.

(d): The RTE Act, 2009 lays down the duties of the appropriate Government and the local authority to provide good quality elementary education conforming to norms and standards and to ensure that curriculum and courses of study are prescribed in a timely manner. The Central Government reviews and monitors implementation of the RTE Act periodically with the States and Union Territories at different forums, including the State Education Ministers' conference. Section 29 of the RTE Act, 2009 lays down a curriculum which promotes, among others, all round development of the child and development of physical and mental abilities to the fullest extent. National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 has been adopted as the curriculum under the RTE Act, 2009. All States have either adopted or adapted their curriculum as per NCF, 2005.

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