

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 144
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021

Trained Teachers for Children with Special Needs

144. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an acute shortage of trained teachers to take care of the children with special needs (CWSN) in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of such children in the country and number of teachers available for them;
- (c) whether Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act applies to all schools including schools admitting such children; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken or being taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) & (b) It is to bring to notice that Education is in Concurrent list of subject. Under Samagra Shiksha, there is a dedicated component for Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs (CwSN) through which separate resource support has been made available through the appointment of special educators in order to appropriately address the needs of CwSN within the general school. In addition, various provisions are made available for the educational needs such as, identification & assessment camps, provision of aids, appliances, assistive devices & teaching learning materials (TLMs) etc.

As per Samagra Shiksha Scheme, the Special Educators may be posted at the block or cluster level or as per the requirement and can operate in an itinerant mode, covering a group of schools where children with special needs are enrolled. The Special Educators on itinerant mode provide support to general teachers to address the diversified and unique needs of special needs students. As per UDISE+ (2019-20 prov.), there are 22,49,069 CwSN enrolled in schools. Under Samagra Shiksha for the year 2021-2022 financial support is provided to 28439

Special Educators in Government and Government aided schools. 390323 schools are provided resource support by these Special Educators on itinerant mode.

(c) to (d) The Samagra Shiksha Scheme is governed and regulated by the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 and supports all States & UTs in implementation of the Act. The RTE Act, 2009 enshrines the entitlement to free and compulsory elementary education, access to school and barrier free access for all children including children with special needs. Further, the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 advocates full equity and inclusion as the cornerstone of education to ensure that all students are able to thrive in the education system. It also underscores within its framework, education of children with special needs in order to ensure equitable quality schooling. The Samagra Shiksha scheme has also been aligned with the recommendations of NEP 2020 to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment.
