

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3616
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2021

Primary Schools

†3616. SHRI SATYADEV PACHAURI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of Government primary schools is decreasing for the first time in the country after independence because parents are giving priority to private schools;
- (b) if so, the number of primary schools closed in the country during the last three years and the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether there is a shortage of about nine lakh teachers in the primary schools and this number is highest in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the basic facilities and to meet the shortage of teachers in the schools;
- (e) the number of schools in the country having access to electricity, State-wise; and
- (f) whether the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act is getting ineffective due to influence of private schools and if so, whether the Government is considering to implement a uniform education system?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (f): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, mandates the appropriate Government to provide free and compulsory elementary education to every child of the age 6 to 14 years in a neighbourhood school.

In pursuance of Section 6 of the Act, the States which are the appropriate Government for schools falling under their jurisdiction, have notified area or limits of their neighbourhood norms in their state RTE Rules, factoring in their State specific condition, for opening of schools.

As reported by States/UTs in their respective Annual Work Plan and Budget, 2021-22, 97.49% of habitations in the country are covered by primary schools. The

habitations that remain uncovered are mostly small or sparsely populated in difficult areas where opening of school is not feasible for which there is a provision of giving transport and escort facility and opening of residential schools and hostels.

Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the schools come under the jurisdiction of respective State/ UT Governments. As per the RTE Act, 2009, the respective State and UT Governments are the appropriate Government to carry out the provisions of the RTE Act including recruitment, service conditions and deployment of teachers. Also, they have the responsibility and mandate to provide school infrastructure including upgradation/ strengthening of schools, drinking water, toilets and other facilities in schools in accordance with the norms laid down in the Schedule to the RTE Act, 2009 and as per respective State RTE Rules.

The recruitment of teachers in schools is a continuous process and the vacancies keep arising due to retirement, resignation and additional requirements on account of enhanced students' strength/new schools. However, Ministry of Education requests the States and UT Governments for filling-up the vacant posts of teachers and their rational deployment, through Review meetings and advisories from time to time. Further, the Central Government through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, provides assistance to the States and UTs for deployment of additional teachers to maintain appropriate Pupil Teacher Ratio as per the prescribed norms for various levels of schooling.

As per the Unified District Information System for Education+ 2019-20, the state-wise details of Government schools having access to electricity is at **Annexure**.

ANNEXURE**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (F) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3616 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH DECEMBER, 2021 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI SATYADEV PACHAURI REGARDING PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

STATE/UTS	Government Schools with Electricity Facility
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	310
ANDHRA PRADESH	42513
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1496
ASSAM	21983
BIHAR	59817
CHANDIGARH	121
CHHATTISGARH	44177
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	300
DAMAN & DIU	109
DELHI	2767
GOA	827
GUJARAT	35011
HARYANA	14337
HIMACHAL PRADESH	14949
JAMMU & KASHMIR	15480
JHARKHAND	34113
KARNATAKA	49563
KERALA	4901
LADAKH	385
LAKSHADWEEP	45
MADHYA PRADESH	57023
MAHARASHTRA	60677
MANIPUR	1710
MEGHALAYA	1205
MIZORAM	2002
NAGALAND	1268
ODISHA	40859
PUDUCHERRY	422
PUNJAB	19377
RAJASTHAN	47312
SIKKIM	838
TAMIL NADU	37579
TELANGANA	28189
TRIPURA	1514
UTTAR PRADESH	102847
UTTARAKHAND	14239
WEST BENGAL	81081

Source: UDISE+ 2019-20