

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:- 1606**  
ANSWERED ON-09/02/2026

**Guidelines of National Council for Teacher Education**

†1606. **Shri Lalji Verma:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many teachers appointed before 2011 as per the guidelines of National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) are still facing uncertainty and administrative hurdles related to Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that teachers appointed before 2011 were appointed under the rules and procedures applicable at the time when TET was not mandatory in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to issue a clear uniform national policy to completely exempt all teachers duly appointed before 2011 from TET, so as to ensure that no injustice is done to them, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is likely to ensure that the services, promotions and other rights of teachers appointed before 2011 are not adversely affected due to lack of TET, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (e): In accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1) of Section 23 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), vide Gazette Notification dated 23rd August, 2010, laid down the minimum qualifications for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher for Classes I to VIII. As per the notification, passing the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) is one of the essential qualifications for appointment as a teacher.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide its judgment dated 01.09.2025, held that TET is one of the minimum qualifications prescribed under Section 23 of the Act and is mandatory for appointment as a teacher in schools covered under the Act.

In respect of in-service teachers recruited prior to the enactment of the RTE Act, the Hon'ble Court has, in exercise of its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution of India, held that teachers having more than five years of service remaining may qualify TET within a period of

two years from the date of the judgment in order to continue in service. Teachers having less than five years of service remaining as on the date of the judgment have been permitted to continue in service till attaining the age of superannuation without qualifying the TET; however, such teachers are not eligible for promotion unless they qualify the TET.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has further directed that qualification of the TET is mandatory for all persons aspiring for appointment as teachers, as well as for in-service teachers seeking appointment by way of promotion, in accordance with the statutory framework under the RTE Act.

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