

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:- 5011
ANSWERED ON-23/03/2026

Teacher Eligibility Test (TET)

5011. Shri E T Mohammed Basheer:
Shri Omprakash Bhupalsinh Alias Pavan Rajenimbalkar:
Shri Sanjay Haribhau Jadhav:

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

- (a) the details of the steps taken by the Government to improve the living standard of teachers working in schools;
- (b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that a large number of teachers appointed, prior to the introduction of the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) or qualify the TET under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, are facing denial of service approval, job security, salary, promotions and other service benefits due to the subsequent insistence on TET qualification, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government acknowledges that these teachers were appointed strictly in accordance with the qualifications and rules prevailing at the time of their appointment and that retrospective enforcement of TET norms has resulted in discrimination and prolonged litigation and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government to remove the mandatory requirement of qualifying the TET for teachers already in service or grant a one-time permanent exemption from TET for such teachers who were appointed prior to the implementation of the said policy and if so, the time by which a decision in this regard is likely to be taken by the Government and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the timeline fixed for issuing clear directions to States to regularise their service and release all pending salary and benefits?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 emphasises enhancing the status, working conditions and professional development of teachers, recognising them as central to education reforms.

The Central Government, through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, provides financial assistance to States/UTs for salary support (as per norms), in-service

training, teacher capacity building and strengthening of academic support institutions such as SCERTs and DIETs, thereby contributing to improved professional conditions of teachers.

Under Samagra Shiksha, support is also provided for continuous professional development of teachers through programmes such as NISHTHA, which enhances teachers' competencies, classroom effectiveness and career progression. Further, the Government has issued the National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST), which provide a framework for professional growth, career progression and recognition of teachers. The National Mission for Mentoring (NMM) has also been envisaged to provide continuous personal and professional support to teachers, thereby improving their professional engagement and effectiveness.

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, has 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. 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

Education is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and the recruitment, service conditions and deployment of teachers come under the purview of the concerned State Government/UT Administrations. States/UTs are regularly advised to ensure timely recruitment, rational deployment, transparent service conditions and career progression pathways for teachers, and the progress in this regard is reviewed through periodic meetings. Support under Samagra Shiksha is also provided for school infrastructure such as classrooms, sanitation facilities, drinking water and digital resources, thereby improving the overall working environment of teachers.
