

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:242
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010
CONSULTATIONS ON RTE ACT, 2009
Chaudhary Shri Jayant;Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

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

- (a) whether the Government is facing some teething problems in the implementation of The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has recently discussed the matter in a meeting held with the State Education Ministers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Act ensures protection of the interests of children belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes and minorities; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 242 FOR 11TH AUGUST, 2010 ASKED BY SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY AND DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH REGARDING CONSULTATIONS ON RTE ACT, 2009.

(a) & (b): Government has received representations from State Governments and other stakeholders on various issues relating to the implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, including financial resources, teacher qualifications, schools run by minority organisations and admission procedure in specified category and unaided schools. The Government is in constant dialogue with the State Governments and stakeholders.

The Government has taken various steps for implementation of the RTE Act, including notifying the (a) RTE Rules, 2010; (b) National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) as the academic authority to lay down teacher qualifications, (c) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) as the academic authority to lay down the curriculum and evaluation procedure, and (d) National Advisory Council (NAC) under the Act. In addition, Government has taken steps to align the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) norms with the provisions of the RTE Act.

(c) & (d): The Government had convened a meeting of State Education Ministers on 18th June, 2010, in which issues relating to teacher recruitment, redeployment, and teacher qualifications and training were discussed in keeping with the provisions of RTE Act. In the meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) on 19th June, 2010 issues relating to aligning SSA norms with the RTE Act were discussed.

(e) & (f): Under the RTE Act, every child in the 6 – 14 age group, including a child belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Classes and minorities has the right to free and compulsory education in a neighbourhood school. Sections 8 and 9 of the Act cast duties on appropriate Governments and local authorities to ensure that the child belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups are not discriminated against and prevented from pursuing and completing elementary education on any grounds. Section 12(1) (c) of the Act provides that schools of specified category and unaided schools shall admit in class I, to the extent of at least twenty-five per cent of the strength of that class, children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group in the neighbourhood and provide free and compulsory elementary education till its completion. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and the State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs) have been mandated under the Act to examine and review the safeguards for rights of the child provided under the RTE Act.