

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1547

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013

QUALITY OF EDUCATION

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

- (a) whether the condition of Government schools and the standard of its teachers are thoroughly unsatisfactory;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether any improvement will narrow the gap that exists in the quality of education between State-run and private public schools;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard;
- (e) whether it requires a far more thoughtful education policy that would make modern skills more widely available; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to prepare thoughtful education policy to bridge the gap in the quality of education between State-run and private public schools?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) & (b): No Madam. Since the inception of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), a total of 1,96,904 primary school (PS) buildings and 1,09,599 upper primary (UPS) buildings have been sanctioned out of which 1,69,051 PS buildings and 99,702 UPS buildings have been completed as on 30.06.2013. A total of 14.75 lakh Additional Class Rooms (ACRs) have been constructed against 18.03 lakh ACRs sanctioned. Drinking water facility has been provided in 2.18 lakh schools against the sanctioned 2.31 schools. A total of 6.58 lakh toilets have been constructed against the sanctioned 8.81 lakh toilets in government schools. Under SSA, a total of 19.82 lakh teacher posts have been sanctioned under which more than 14 lakh teacher posts have been filled as on 31.03.2013.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 specifies the statutory duties and responsibilities of teachers and lays down the minimum qualifications for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in elementary schools, which have been notified by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) in its Notification dated 23rd August, 2010. Further, the person to be recruited as a teacher has to pass the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) to be conducted by the appropriate government.

(c) to (f): No comparative study has been conducted to find out the gap in the quality of education between State-run and private public schools.

Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the State Governments and Union Territory (UT) Administrations are supported on several interventions to improve teaching standards, including regular in-service teacher training, a 30-day induction training for newly recruited teachers, the training of all untrained teachers to acquire professional qualifications, the recruitment of additional teachers for better pupil-teacher ratios, academic support for teachers through block and cluster resource centres, a continuous and comprehensive evaluation system to equip the teacher to measure pupil performance and provide remedial action wherever required, and teacher and school grants for development of appropriate teaching-learning materials, etc.

For secondary education, the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan programme similarly, provides for in-service teacher training and academic support to schools for improving teacher performance and thereby the quality of education.