

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4028
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS
Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 60% of India's schools are still short of teachers and 39% of schools operate out of Kaccha buildings and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether underprivileged children still continue to drop out due to caste discrimination, inadequate pre-schooling and sheer poverty;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): Since the inception of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), 19.84 lakh teacher posts have been sanctioned till date, against which 14.80 lakh teacher posts have been filled up to September, 2013. The schedule to the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 prescribes all-weather school buildings. Under the SSA, school buildings are sanctioned as per the design proposed by the State/UT governments. Till date, 3.07 lakh buildings have been sanctioned under the SSA.

(b) to (d): An independent study to assess the dropout rate of children in the 6 to 13 + age group was conducted in the year 2009-10 in 21 States. It indicated that lack of interest in studies, cultural and economic pressures, migration of families, and engagement in domestic work were the main reasons for the drop-out rate from schools.

The steps taken under SSA to arrest dropouts include inter-alia, distribution of free text books to all children, distribution of uniforms to the girls and SC/ST and BPL boys, the non-detention of children upto Class VIII, continuous and comprehensive evaluation and the provision of mid-day meals to all children.