

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:211
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2014
ADMISSION OF EWS IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS
Rajesh Shri M. B.

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

- (a) the major challenges being faced in the implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to initiate any programme to improve the quality of schools and teachers and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to amend the RTE Act to institutionalise the concept of neighbourhood schools and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has taken note of the complaints that private schools are not admitting students from economically weaker sections under the Right to Education Act; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the punitive as well as corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (c): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 is being implemented in all States/UTs after the notification of the State RTE Rules by the respective States. Since the RTE Act already mandates a neighbourhood school under section 3 (1), and State Governments in their RTE Rules have further defined their distance and population norms, therefore no amendment on this account appears necessary. Through the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme, which is a programme aimed to realise the objectives of the RTE Act, focussed strategies for enhancement of learning outcomes have been taken up, targeting reading, writing and comprehension skills in early primary grades and for science and mathematics at upper primary level. In addition, SSA provides inputs which include inter alia, free text books, in-service training for teachers, and decentralized academic support to teachers etc to improve quality.

(d) & (e): Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, 2009 mandates reservation in private unaided non-minority schools for children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups in admission to Class I or pre-primary, as the case may be, to the extent of at least 25% seats, the process of which has been further detailed in the RTE Rules of respective State Governments. Complaints on non-compliance of this provision of the Act, are immediately referred by the Central Government to the concerned State/UT for remedial action. In addition, local grievance redressal mechanisms by State Governments and the setting of a State Commission for Protection of Child Right (SCPCR) at State level and the National Commission for Protection of Child Right (NCPCR) at national level, also redress grievances with regard to the implementation of the RTE Act.