

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:255  
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2014  
EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS  
Dubey Shri Nishikant

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

- (a) whether the status of education in the rural areas is very poor;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether more than 50 per cent of rural schools do not comply with the student-teacher ratio and more than 40 per cent schools do not have playgrounds;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to prepare any action plan to improve the over all condition of rural schools in the country and if so the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (e): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 stipulates that all children in the 6-14 years age group be in school. School enrolment data under Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) 2013-14 shows that 19.98 crore children out of the age cohort of 20.8 crore children are in school. So far 2.77 lakh schools have been constructed under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme, of which majority are in rural areas. SSA has supported States with funding for 15.06 lakh additional teachers, which has helped bring the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) to 1:26 in 2013-14. 58% of elementary schools have playgrounds. Under SSA programme, States/UT's are supported to augment school infrastructure to meet RTE norms, including in rural areas.

The school-wise details on availability of playgrounds and schools complying with PTR are at Annexure.