

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:- 139
ANSWERED ON-03/02/2024

Shortage of Teachers in Schools

†139. Shri Balya Mama Suresh Gopinath Mhatre:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of schools having shortage of teachers across the country particularly in Maharashtra;
- (b) the details of steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any initiative to promote digital education in Government schools in rural areas, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to promote research work in universities and colleges?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDARY)

(a) & (b): Education being a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, an overwhelming majority of the schools in the country comes under the administrative control of States/UTs. The recruitment, service conditions and rational deployment of teachers come under the purview of the respective State Governments/UT Administrations. Further, Recruitment is a continuous process and vacancies arise due to a number of factors like retirement, resignation, increased requirement of teachers because of the enhanced students' strength etc. The data regarding the number of schools having shortage of teachers across the country, including the State of Maharashtra, are maintained by the respective State Governments/Union Territory administrations.

As per UDISE+ 2023-24 report, the details of in-position teachers in schools across the country including the state of Maharashtra are available in ANNEXURE at <https://www.education.gov.in/parl ques>.

The Central Government through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, provides financial assistance to the States and UTs to maintain appropriate Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) for various levels of schooling, as per norms prescribed in the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, as amended from time to time. The progress regarding filling up of teacher vacancies through a competitive selection examination conducted by States/UTs, with due care for consistency and sanctity and after a technology based comprehensive teacher requirement planning and forecasting exercise, is periodically reviewed by the Department of School Education & Literacy with States/UTs.

(c): In order to promote digital education in Government schools, including those in rural areas, a comprehensive initiative called PM e-Vidya has been initiated which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The key initiatives under PM e-Vidya are: -

- DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) portal and DIKSHA mobile app - a store house of large number of eBooks and e-Contents;
- SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-learning for Young Aspiring Minds) portal for self-paced life-long learning;
- 200 PM e-Vidya DTH channels to enable all States/UTs to provide supplementary education in Indian languages for Classes I to XII;
- Extensive use of Radio, Community Radio and CBSE Podcast – Shiksha Vani;
- Special e-content for Children with Special Needs (CwSN) developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in Indian Sign Language (ISL);
- Digital content broadcast by NCERT on DTH and YouTube channels;

Further, financial support for setting up ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms in schools, including rural schools, under the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha is provided to State/UTs as per scheme norms.

(d): In order to promote research work in universities and colleges, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has formulated guidelines for “Establishment of Research & Development Cell” in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) with a vision to put in place a robust mechanism for developing and strengthening the research ecosystem within HEIs, aligned with the provisions of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. 1,689 HEIs have established Research & Development Cells, as per the prescribed UGC guidelines till December, 2024. Further, UGC has introduced the UGC National Eligibility Test (NET)-Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and Savitribai Jyotirao Phule Single Girl Child Fellowship schemes to support research scholars to pursue Higher Education.
