

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Chandigarh	15	57	-
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	165	239
30.	Daman Diu	1	23	87
31.	Delhi	1	360	254
32.	Puducherry	1	31	82

**Learning outcomes in primary schools**

1268. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent studies have revealed that learning outcomes in primary schools have worsened during the last few years;

(b) whether Government has any scheme to improve learning outcomes in schools;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (d) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducts detailed periodic national surveys on learning achievement levels of children in classes- III, V and VIII. Three rounds of these National Learners' Achievement Surveys have been completed by the NCERT over the period from 2002-03 to 2012-2013, which have revealed improvements in the overall learning levels of students, even though achievements remain low.

Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the State Governments and UT Administrations are supported on interventions to improve the quality of elementary education, including *inter-alia*, programmes to improve foundational learning levels in language and mathematics in early primary grades, strengthening science and mathematics teaching-learning at upper primary level and implementation of a system of continuous and comprehensive evaluation system with regular state level learning assessment studies, as well.

**Vacancy in IITs and NITs**

1269. SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly half of all the teaching positions in IITs and over half in NITs are lying vacant across the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken / being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) There are approximately 36.5% and 40.8% vacancy in teaching positions in sixteen IITs and thirty NITs respectively. The reasons for faculty shortage are due to retirement, resignation, increase in students' intake and non-availability of qualified candidates for taking up teaching assignments.

(c) Arising of vacancies and filling up thereof is a continuous process and the Institutes have been taking various initiatives to attract outstanding candidates for faculty positions. Some of these measures include year-round open advertisements, holding of selection committee meetings through video conferencing, invitation to alumni, scientists and faculty to reach out to potential candidates, advertisements in international journals, outstanding young faculty awards, etc. IITs allow appoint NRIs and PIOs to the permanent faculty positions on the same terms and conditions as those of the regular faculty.

As regards to NITs, the Institutions are engaging contract and adjunct staff as well as using the online mode of teaching to overcome these shortages. Moreover, faculty in NITs has now been given pay parity with faculty in IITs with a view to attract quality faculty.

Further, the MHA has reduced the salary limit for employment Visa to foreign faculty from US\$ 25,000 to US\$ 14,000 with a view to make it possible for foreign faculty to join IITs and NITs.

#### **Financial assistance to students studying abroad**

†1270. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to provide financial assistance to the students belonging to economically backward classes for their study abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of policies/schemes adopted by Government in this regard;
- (d) the number of students to be benefitted there under; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.