



## Admissions of Poor Children on Priority in New Academic Session

### Why in News?

The Rajasthan government has taken up the **admissions of children from underprivileged sections in private schools** under the [Right to Education \(RTE\) Act 2009](#) on priority for the next academic session.

### Key Points

- According to the sources, over **3.08 lakh children had applied for admissions** to 31,857 private schools in the State.
  - **25% of the seats** in the private schools would **be filled up with** the students belonging to **weaker sections of society**.
- The **Directorate of Elementary Education** has made a provision for RTE admissions to the pre-primary classes and Class 1 in the schools, while fixing the age limit for the two categories.
  - The children from three to four years of age are admitted to pre-primary classes and those between six and seven years are eligible to get admission to Class 1.
- A large number of **private schools** in the State **have expressed concerns** about the admission of students to the pre-primary classes, as the category was added in 2023-24 **without any clear guidelines for payment of fees** by the government for three years until a student is promoted to Class 1.

### Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009

- The Right to Education Act (RTE), 2009 provided free and compulsory education to children in 2009 and enforced it as a fundamental right under **Article 21-A**.
- The RTE Act, 2009 aims to provide primary education to all children **aged 6 to 14 years**.
- **Section 12(1)(c)** mandates that **non-minority private unaided schools should reserve at least 25% of seats in entry-level grades for children from economically weaker and disadvantaged backgrounds**.
- It also makes **provisions for a non-admitted child** to be admitted to an age appropriate class.
- It also states about **sharing of financial and other responsibilities** between the Central and State Governments.
  - Education in the Indian constitution is a **concurrent issue** and both centre and states can legislate on the issue.
- It lays down the **norms and standards** related to: Pupil Teacher Ratios (PTRs), Buildings and infrastructure, School-working days, Teacher-working hours.
- It also **provides for prohibition of deployment of teachers for non-educational work**, other than decennial census, elections to local authority, state legislatures and parliament, and disaster relief.
- It provides for the **appointment of teachers with the requisite entry and academic qualifications**.
- It **prohibits**
  - Physical punishment and mental harassment.
  - Screening procedures for admission of children.
  - Capitation fee.

- Private tuition by teachers.
  - Running of schools without recognition.
- It focuses on making the child free of fear, trauma and anxiety through a system of **child friendly and child centered learning**.

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