

Modern education in madarsas

†*546. MS. SUHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the students are still bereft of modern education in madarsas;
- (b) whether the National Institute of Open Schooling has taken an initiative to provide modern education in madarsas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government would seek co-operation of progressive Muslim leaders also in this regard so that the young Muslims can also make optimum contribution in the progress of the country;
- (e) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH):

(a) to (f) No Sir; Madarsas which volunteer to teach modern subjects like Science, Mathematics, English and Social Studies etc. in addition to their traditional curriculum, are provided financial assistance through the respective State Government for 'Honorarium' to teachers in the modern subjects, teaching aids and book-banks. The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) under its programme, 'Reach the Un-reached' has proposed a programme for modern education on distance learning mode for madarsas volunteering for the same. Under the programme of 'Reach the Un-reached' the NIOS proposes to establish and strengthen linkages with madarsas to provide modern and vocational education according to the NIOS curriculum. It will launch special advocacy programmes in the areas of concentration of Muslim population, in order to increase awareness and involve the community and to enable madarsas volunteering to adopt the NIOS model of curriculum and teaching methodology for modern subjects, to do so without affecting their traditional programmes of study. The National Monitoring Committee on Minorities Education (NMCME) has formed a Group of Experts to interact with community leaders and intellectuals, Madarsa Managements and other stake holders to provide inputs to the Government for redesigning of the existing Madarsa Modernization Programme. The Group has submitted its Report and the same has been accepted by the Government for recasting the Programme.

Increase in suicides by students

*547. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

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

- (a) whether the cases of suicide by students in the country are increasing, particularly during examinations;
- (b) whether around 6,000 students committed suicide across the country during 2006, due to exam stress;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(d) whether Government proposes to review and change the school examination system and undertake drastic changes to reduce examination stress among students;

(e) whether Government has taken a decision to launch a programme to train the school teachers and counsellors to identify the symptoms and causes of stress and depression among students; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH):
(a) to (c) Reports on cases of students committing suicide have appeared in newspapers from time to time. The information on the exact number of suicides by students due to examination stress is not maintained in this Ministry. The Government recognizes the need to devise measures to reduce examination stress among students through involvement of all stakeholders, including parents, school authorities and society at large.

(d) National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 recommends measures like reduction of curriculum load, emphasis on comprehension and application of knowledge, focus on continuous and comprehensive evaluation, emphasis on testing of competencies rather than rote memory, making examination more flexible, provision of guidance and counselling in schools, and overall to make learning child-centric.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has already taken the following steps to reduce stress on students due to examination:

- a. Continuous and comprehensive evaluation with marks assigned for internal assessment,
- b. The examination system has been reconstructed to test more of conceptual knowledge and understanding rather than rote memory,
- c. Additional 15 minutes time is given in class X and XII examinations to enable students to read question papers thoroughly,
- d. Setting up of examination help-line and making available sample question papers,
- e. Designing question papers so that all the questions can be answered in 2½ hours even though the total period of examination is 3 hours.
- f. Shift from content based testing to problem solving and competency based testing,
- g. Higher weightage to practicals,
- h. Introduction of Mathematics labs in schools to improve conceptual understanding,
- i. Allowing students to appear in compartmental examination immediately after the declaration of the result of the main examination. Five chances are given in two subjects in class X and one subject in class XII.

(e) and (f) CBSE has advised its affiliated senior secondary schools to appoint counsellors. It provides counselling facilities centrally to students and parents through telephone and e-mail before Xth and XIIth class examinations.

NCERT offers a course on Counselling and Guidance for regular teachers/teacher educators to follow Guidance and Counselling approach in their day to day teaching and interaction with students in schools.