

- (b) an Inter-state thermal power plant of a capacity of 1000 MW or more, located in States other than those specified in clause (a) above; or
- (c) an Inter-state hydel power plant of a capacity of 350 MW or more, located in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura; or
- (d) an Inter-state hydel power plant of a capacity of 500 MW or more, located in States other than those specified in clause (c) above.

### Improving Government schools

†\*258. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that standard of education in Government schools is not at par with that of private schools;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that donation is taken in private schools; and
- (c) if so, whether any policy would be formulated for improving Government schools, so that the problem of taking donation by private schools could be checked?

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

(a) Education being a concurrent subject, school education primarily comes under the purview of the State Governments. So far as the schools under this Ministry are concerned, there is no evidence to suggest that standard of education is not at par with that of private schools. On the contrary, pass percentages of schools under Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, both at class X and Class XII standard, were consistently above the pass percentages of independent private schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) during the last five years (2003-07).

(b) Private schools come under the purview of State Government and it is for the respective State Government to regulate the donations charged by private schools. The Affiliation Bye-laws of Central Board of Secondary Education prohibit charging and collecting of capitation fee or voluntary donations for gaining admission in the schools or for any other purpose. In case of such malpractices, CBSE can take action leading to disaffiliation of the schools.

(c) Improvement of quality of education is a continuous process. Central Government has been implementing Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) at the elementary level since 2001-02, *inter-alia*, with the objective to focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality. It has also been decided to implement a Centrally sponsored scheme for universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. These schemes primarily focus on improving access and quality of Government schools.

### Wastage of food items

\*259. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a wastage of perishable food items to the tune of Rs. 50,000 crore every year, due to lack of proper food processing facilities in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.