

Failure of Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme

541. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme failing to serve purpose" which appeared in 22nd January, 1999 issue of the Assam Tribune, Guwahati; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The observations made in the Jew-item are not correct. The Navodaya Vidyalayas are by and large fulfilling the objectives for which they were set up. the Policy of providing reservation to the extent of 75% seats to rural children and the provision of admission of SC/ST children is also adhered to in these schools, including in Golaghat (Assam).

All care is taken to provide good quality food and infrastructure. Any/complaints received in this regard are looked into seriously and remedial action taken.

Committee on Fundamental Duties

542. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high-powered committee headed by Shri J.S. Verma, a former Chief Justice of India, for Operationalisation of the Suggestions to Teach Fundamental duties to the Citizens of the country has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in respect thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c)

Yes, Sir. The Committee set up by the Government of India to Operationalize the suggestions to teach Fundamental Duties to the citizens of the country under the Chairmanship of Justice J.S. Verma, former Chief Justice of India, has submitted an interim report. The salient features of the recommendations are as follow:

(i) There is need for a fundamental transformation in the direction and approach to the curricula for teaching Fundamental Duties in schools and teacher education institutions.

(ii) The Preamble to the Constitution of India and the 10 clauses of Article 51A relating to Fundamental Duties could be appropriately displayed on all Government publications, diaries, calendars and at public places, etc. so that they always remain in the focus of the citizens. This should be done in all Indian languages in the States/UTs.

(iii) Preamble to the Constitution of India and the ten clauses of Article 51A of the Constitution regarding Fundamental Duties* be printed in all the school textbooks, supplementary materials and general publications brought out by the NCERT.

(iv) The intent of each clause of Article 51A could be a subject of brief presentation in all morning assemblies in the schools and the teacher education institutions by the Head of the Institution or some senior member of the staff, highlighting the need of internalizing the values inherent in the Fundamental duties.

(v) Seminars, debates, competitions on different aspects of Article 51A could be made a regular feature of the cocurricular programmes of the schools, colleges and universities.

(vi) A sensitization module based on Fundamental Duties be made an integral part of all in Service