

Introduction of adolescent education in schools

4020. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has prepared a blueprint for the introduction of adolescent education in schools;

(b) if so, what are the major components of the blueprint to be incorporated in the school curriculum;

(c) whether efforts have been made to obtain the views of parents, teachers, psychologists and people from different disciplines on the concept and framework of the proposed adult education;

(d) if so, their reactions; and

(e) the decision of the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) The major components of adolescence education are (i) process of growing up. (ii) HIV/AIDS and (iii) Drug Abuse. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has organised regional seminars to obtain the views of parents, teachers, psychologists, social scientists and pedagogists. The recommendations of the seminars strongly support the introduction of adolescence education in schools. The Council plans to organise more seminars to give a final shape to the framework on the introduction of adolescence education.

Imparting of quality education

4021. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government feel that "Quality" has become a major concern in higher education;

(b) if so, whether Government believe that meeting society's needs and expectations towards higher education depends ultimately on the quality of the staff, programmes and students as well as the infrastructural and academic environment; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to achieve this objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has taken several initiatives from time to time to improve the quality, and upgradation of the standards of higher education in the country. Some of the major steps taken in this direction are indicated below:—

- Development grants are provided to all eligible universities and colleges for recruitment of teaching staff, purchase of books, journals and equipment, improvement of faculty, construction of buildings and hostels, staff quarters, etc.
- Financial assistance is provided to research scholars, teachers and departments for promotion research.
- Funds are provided for introducing courses in emerging areas of Science and Technology.
- Schemes have been introduced for professional development of teachers.