

- 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 to improve conceptual understanding,
- i. Providing counseling services to both students and parents through telephone, and also online,
- j. Allowing students to appear in compartmental examination immediately after declaration of the result of the main examination. Five chances are given in two subjects in class X and one subject in class XII.

Importance of primary education

*35. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court, in the month of April, 2008, while dealing with issue of 27 per cent OBC reservation in higher education, did not lose sight of the importance of primary education and felt that a lot needs to be done to universalize the fundamental right to education;

(b) if so, whether in the judgment, stress has been given on primary and secondary education so that proper foundation for higher education can be effectively laid;

(c) what other main points were made in the judgment; and

(d) what steps Government proposes to take in order to fulfil the constitutional obligation of providing compulsory education to the children of 6 to 14 years?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court while disposing of the Writ Petition No. 265 of 2006 and a bunch of related writ Petitions challenging the vires of Article 15(5) of the Constitution and the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006, has emphasised that imparting of good quality education to all children aged six to fourteen years and regular attendance in school is necessary in order to ensure total compliance of Article 21A of the Constitution. In para 473(f) as reported in SCC 2008(5) SCALE 1, the Apex Court has *inter alia* observed that:

"Parliament should set a deadline by which time free and compulsory education will have reached every child. This must be done within six months".

(b) Yes, Sir. In para 332(8) of the judgment referred to in part (a) above, the Apex Court has also observed that;

"Stress has to be on primary and secondary education so that proper foundation for higher education can be effectively laid".

(c) The summary of the judgment in W.P No. 265 of 2006 pronounced on 10.4.2008 and as read out in the court is as follows :

- (i) The 93rd Amendment Act does not violate the basic structure in so far as it relates to aided educational institutions. As far as private unaided educational institutions are concerned, 4 out of 5 Judges have left the question open while Justice Bhandari held that it was violative of the basic structure.
- (ii) The 2006 Act is constitutionally valid subject to exclusion of 'Creamy Layer.'
- (iii) The quantum of 27% reservation for OBCs is not illegal.
- (iv) The CEI Act, 2006 is not illegal merely because time limit has not been prescribed for reservation.
- (v) There should be a review of the lists of SEBCs every 5 years."

(d) A legislative proposal on Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education is under consideration of the Government.

IGCC technology for power Generation

*36. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether BHEL has entered into an agreement with the Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation, to set up a 125. MW power, plants using the Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) technology;

(b) if so, whether IGCC technology is more thermal efficient than conventional pulverized coal technology and is cost effective too; and

(c) if so, the comparative figures thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) technology has been internationally tried mostly with petroleum fuels and low ash coals; It has not been proven in commercial level size plants with high ash, low quality Indian coals. The efficiency of IGCC process is dependent on the coal quality and also other site conditions like ambient air and cooling water temperature and as such the efficiency under Indian conditions is expected to be lower than what has been achieved internationally.

Studies were conducted by NTPC Ltd., for setting up of an IGCC demonstration plant in India. According to these studies, overall cost of IGCC demonstration plant is substantially