

Reorientation of school curriculum to reduce burden on school children

*225. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to re-orient the school curriculum and courses of study to reduce burden on students; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

School curriculum to reduce burden on school children.

The National Policy on Education 1986 (N.P.E.) envisaged a national system of education based on a National Curricular Framework containing a common core along with other flexible components. The NPE also envisaged adoption of a child-centred approach to education in the context of the efforts to promote universal enrolment and universal retention of children up to 14 years of age and substantial improvement in the quality of education. The reorientation of content and process of education in the school stage which was initiated after the adoption of the NPE took into account many concerns including the question reducing the burden on school students.

2. Based on these guidelines, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) brought out in 1988 a National Curricular Framework for all stages of school education. The revised curriculum took into account the need for reduction of curriculum load, keeping in view the requirements for modernisation and relevance.

3. Keeping in view the guidelines in the National Curricular Framework, the NCERT revised the entire school

syllabi and brought out revised textbooks for classes I to XII. Based on the National Curricular Framework and the NCERT syllabi/textbooks, the States and Union Territories have also undertaken measures of curriculum renewal and development of new textbooks for different stages of school education for their introduction into the school system in a phased manner.

4. The tendency on the part of the * ; schools particularly those in urban areas to recommend a large number of books, has contributed to overburdening of students. This tendency was sought to be curbed by issuing instructions from the Ministry of Human Resource Development in October, 1989 to the Education Secretaries of all States and Union Territories to ask the schools not to prescribe more books than which are actually required and to ensure that children carry only those textbooks| exercise books which are actually required on a particular day.

Trade with the USSR

*226. SHRI SHIVPRASAD CHANPURIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Articles "Trade| Rupee payment Agreements—The Options for India" which appeared in The Economic Times of the 1st July, 1991 and "Economic Reforms/Rupee Trade Future Shock" also in The Economic Times of 15th July, 1991 regarding trade between India and USSR;

(b) if so, what is the value of imports from and exports to USSR envisaged in 1991 and the value of imports and exports actually contracted upto the 1st July, 1991; and

(c) by when the Trade Plan for 1992 would be signed and the import and export figures envisaged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.