

(SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA) :

(a) to (c) Realising the potential of education in tackling problems of growing population, a National Population Education Project (NPEP) was launched with effect from April, 1980 designed to introduce population education in the formal education system. Subsequently, NPEP was divided into three parts, namely (i) School and Non-Formal Education, (ii) Adult Education and (iii) Higher Education.

Under the Population Education (School and Non-Formal Education) Project, the population education elements are being integrated into the school syllabi and textbooks. With the technical assistance provided by the National Council of Educational Research and Training, this particular project is being implemented through the Population Education Cells operating in various States and Union Territories.

Sex and family life education has not been the focus of this project, the main emphasis of which is on promotion of attitudes and values in the minds of school students and teachers that have positive impact on observance of small family norm and improvement in quality of life.

Reducing the load of books of children of kindergartens

2193. DR. NARREDY THULASI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kindergarten schools in the country have become torture cells for tiny tots by making the child to carry back load of books and a head load of stuff which do not interest them at all ; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are contemplating to solve this problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA) :

(a) It is a fact that certain schools, mainly private un-aided ones, introduce textbooks and undertake formal teaching of subjects like language and arithmetic at the Kindergarten or pre-primary stage, resulting in over-burdening the child—both mentally and physically.

(b) NCERT, in the National Curriculum Framework for Elementary and Secondary Education, has suggested that the basic mode of upbringing at the pre-primary stage should be group activities and play-way techniques, language games, number games, etc., to make learning a joyful experience. No textbooks are to be prescribed, and formal teaching of 3—R's and examinations have been discouraged.

Allotment of open space to Mount Carmel School in Anand Niketan

2194. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the National Policy on Education 1986, the open spaces available in Urban areas would be reserved for play grounds ;

(b) if so, the number of such open spaces allotted to different schools in R.K. Puram, Anand Niketan, Shanti Niketan and West Colonies of South Delhi ;

(c) whether it is a fact that M/s. Mount Carmel School in Anand Niketan has also urged Government to allot open space opposite the school for play ground for the benefit of students ; and