

(c) if so, the steps being taken to improve the educational performance of Government schools;

(d) whether Government propose to evolve rating system for the schools;

(e) if so, what are the criteria for such rating system; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Central Government is following National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 as amended in 1992, envisaging the National System of Education, which implies that, up to a given level, all students irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex have access to education of a comparable quality. It includes a common education structure, a national curriculum framework and minimum levels of learning for each stage of education. It may also be mentioned that education being a concurrent subject, school education is primarily in the domain of State Governments.

(c) The National Curriculum Framework 2005 has been formulated and is being rolled out in the country to improve the quality of education in schools. The Kendriya and Navodaya Vidyalayas are showing good results. For the elementary education sector, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is being implemented to improve quality in schools.

(d) to (f) There is no proposal at present to evolve a rating system for schools.

Academic exchanges among historians

2912. **SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:**

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Pakistan have agreed for greater academic exchanges among the historians and to facilitate historical research between two countries;

(b) if so, how many such interactions and exchanges have taken place ever since the agreement and the institutions involved;

(c) whether Government are considering to sponsor a India-Pakistan joint research project on freedom struggle in the sub-continent;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (c) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

(e) No such proposal is before the Government.

Indo-Pak agreement on academic exchanges

2913. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether India and Pakistan have any agreement on academic exchanges;

(b) if so, how many such exchanges took place during the last two years;

(c) the areas identified for such exchanges;

(d) the nodal agencies involved in such exchanges; and

(e) the steps being taken to further intensify such exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) No formal agreement has been signed for any academic exchanges between India and Pakistan. However, a Working Group on Education set up by the Indo-Pakistan Joint Commission held its first meeting on 20th February 2007 in New Delhi. The meeting identified the following areas for collaboration:

- (i) Cooperation between the countries through exchange of information, joint workshops, seminars, symposia, exploratory visits, training and collaborative research;