

teaching at primary stage were untrained. The survey does not specify reasons for untrained teachers in the primary schools.

(c) As most of the primary schools in the country are within the purview of the State Governments, ensuring proper training of primary school teachers is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) lays down guidelines in respect of minimum qualification for employment as teachers in schools and also regulates norms and standards in the teacher education system throughout the country. NCERT also designs in-service training programmes based on the request of State Governments.

### **Introduction of a new programme for health by CBSE**

4158. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision of the Central Board of Secondary Education to introduce Adolescence and Reproductive Sexual Health Programme which will address issues related to nutrition, health, hygiene, physical fitness and mental health besides drug abuse, reproductive and sexual health and HIV-AIDS has not been favoured by many States;

(b) if so, the reasons for the opposition and the States that have opposed it; and

(c) whether his Ministry, in view of this, have dropped the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is implementing an educational programme launched by Ministry of Human Resource Development in collaboration with National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) known as Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) meant for secondary and higher secondary classes with the objective to empower the adolescent population to make informed choices and develop life skills for addressing psychological, social and health concerns.

CBSE has informed that there is no resistance to the implementation of Adolescence Education Programme in its affiliated schools, but there are media reports about State Government of Maharashtra not favouring this on the perception that sex education was being imparted and that the material being used was not sensitive to cultural ethos.

(c) No. Sir. Adolescence Education Programme responds to the learning needs of the adolescent and is meant to equip the adolescent to develop life-skills and to avoid risky behaviour.

### **Literacy rate among SCs**

†4159. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the low literacy rate among scheduled castes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the literacy rate among SCs; and

(d) the details of schemes introduced by Government for imparting education to the SCs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) According to 2001 Census the literacy rate of scheduled castes was 54.69% as against the national average of 64.84%. Whereas the increase in the overall literacy rate of the country during 1991-2001 was only 12.63%, the increase in the literacy rate of scheduled castes during the same period was 17.28%.

(c) and (d) The Universalisation of Elementary Education and eradication of adult illiteracy from the two-pronged strategy for improving the literacy rate of the country. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a comprehensive programme for universalizing quality Elementary Education

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.