

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether it is not a discriminatory policy to keep the intellectual level of children at unequal level;

(c) whether Government would consider it and take a proper decision to maintain the uniform education level; and

(d) if so, by when it would be considered?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) are affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and hence follow the curriculum and syllabus prescribed by CBSE. State Governments have their own Boards of School Education and they prescribe curriculum and syllabus for the schools affiliated to the respective State Boards. However, the curriculum and syllabi of various Boards in the country are broadly based on the National Curriculum Framework. Flexibility in curriculum and syllabi helps in contextualisation of education based on State-specific needs, cultural ethos, aspirations and geographical and historical backgrounds. Different syllabi are necessary to make education relevant and life-oriented. At the same time, the different syllabi have a fundamental uniformity because of their adherence to the National Curriculum Framework. Thus, the flexibility in curriculum and syllabi does not reflect any discriminatory policy nor does it promote different intellectual level of children. Further there is equivalence between certificates issued by the different Boards at class X and XII levels.

Educational programmes on school education and literacy

***549. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 4274.69 crores was allocated to his Ministry for the year 2006-07 for programmes on school education and literacy with at least 20 per cent allocation benefits to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) the details of such programmes undertaken by his Ministry for 2006-07 alongwith the details of budget funds utilized, quantitative and qualitative benefits accrued to these sections, State-wise; and

(c) the programmes with the least 20 per cent allocation out of the budget allocation of Rs. 5756.54 crores to be undertaken for 2007-08 alongwith the amount likely to be spent and benefits to be accrued to these sections, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) Rs. 4274.69 crores and Rs. 5756.54 crores were earmarked during 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively for programmes on school education and literacy for benefits to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Though various schemes of school education and literacy are designed to impart benefits in a general manner and schemes are not designed exclusively for SCs/STs but several preferences/concessions are built in the operational design of the schemes to extend benefits to SCs/STs.

Educational facilities and infrastructure are provided in an integrated manner and utilization of funds is also done in an integrated manner. The gross enrolment ratios of SC students at elementary stage of education has risen from 85.6% in 2001-02 to 98.8% in 2004-05 and that of ST students has risen from 88.9% in 2001-02 to 102.4% in 2004-05.

Forecast by Indian Meteorological Department

†*550. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Meteorological Department has forecast that there will be 5 per cent less rain than the average rain during the ensuing monsoon;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that several international meteorological departments have forecast a good monsoon contrary to the said forecast by Indian Meteorological Department;

(c) if so, whether any final forecast has been made to get rid of said confusion; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.