

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (f) Three Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have already been set up by the Government at Pune, Kolkata and Mohali and the academic sessions have already commenced in the academic year 2006-07 at the IISERs at Pune and Kolkata. The Government has decided to set up two more IISERs in the country during the 11th Five Year Plan. These will be located at Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram. The decision to locate the IISERs at Pune, Kolkata, Mohali, Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram is based on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM). At present, the Government has no plan to set up an IISER in Gujarat.

Committee to review NCERT textbooks

*294. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

(a) whether, battling with the controversy over NCERT textbooks, his Ministry have decided to set up a committee under former UGC Chairman to go into the contents of these books;

(b) if so, the main aims/objectives of this committee;

(c) by when this committee is likely to submit its report; and

(d) if the report has been submitted, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) In the light of certain objections raised regarding the contents of the Hindi textbooks published by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal was constituted on 30.8.2006 to review these textbooks. The terms of reference of the Committee were;

(i) to review the relevant Hindi textbooks in the light of the objections raised;

(ii) to recommend any improvements or revisions that may be considered necessary;

(c) and (d) The Committee submitted its report on 20.10.2006. After considering the report of the Committee, the following action has been taken;

- (i) In the book Antara-I, the story 'Apni Khabar' by Pandeya Bechan Sharma Ugra has been replaced by the story 'Uski Maa' written by the same author. Similarly in the same book, the poem 'Mochiram' by Dhoomil has been replaced by the poem 'Ghar Main Wapsi' by the same author.
- (ii) In the book Aaroh-I, the story 'Doodh Ka Daam' by Premchand has been replaced by the story 'Namak Ka Daroga' by the same author.
- (iii) In the book Aaroh-I, introduction to the poem by Paash has been suitably modified.
- (iv) All schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education have been advised not to teach the deleted pieces of writing or use the same for setting of questions in the examinations.

Lack of science laboratories in schools

†*295. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI JANEWSHWAR MISHRA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Seventh State Survey Report of NCERT, 20 per cent of schools lack laboratories for science subjects;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of such schools;

(c) whether Government would formulate any programme to improve academic standard of such schools and provide all required means/ equipments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) As per 7th All India School Education Survey,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.