

Free textbooks to students

17. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh is giving textbooks free of cost to 1.05 crore students who are studying in Government and aided schools in the State;

(b) if so, the Details thereof;

(c) whether any such scheme is going on at the Centre for giving textbooks free of cost to poor and students studying in Government and aided schools; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not adopting the same and supplying free textbooks to all students who are studying in Government and aided schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) 24.26 lakhs Scheduled caste children, 10.92 lakh Scheduled Tribe children, 48.15 lakh Backward Class children, 0.82 lakh Physically Handicapped children and 20.85 lakh Open Competition children were covered.

(c) and (d) Government of India, under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan provides free text books to all girls, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe children at primary and upper level within upper ceiling of Rs. 150/- per child in cases where there is no State level scheme for free text books.

Effectiveness of school education system

18. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a Committee has been set up to explore the possibility of assessing the achievement of students as an indicator of the effectiveness and suitability of the school education system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the personnel of the Committee, the precise terms of reference and the time-frame within the Committee would submit its recommendations;

(c) whether any guidelines have been suggested to help the Committee devise a standardised system of achievement across the schools and examination boards for effecting improvement in school education; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A committee has been constituted on 10th May, 2006 to develop methodology to test students at all stages of school education on sample basis, across the country to, *inter alia*, ascertain their levels of achievement as an indicator of the effectiveness in suitability of the school education system. The Committee has the following composition:

1.	Director, NCERT	Chairman
2.	Chairman, CBSE	Member
3.	Prof.H.S.Srivastava.Retired Dean and Head of the Deptt, of Measurement, Evaluation, Survey and Data Processing, NCERT	Member
4.	Prof. Jacob Tharu, Former Professor, Evaluation, CIEFL, Hyderabad	Member
5.	Dr. Kamal Mahendru "Eklavya", E-7/HIG 453, Arera Colony, Bhopal-462 016	Member
6.	Dr. (Ms.) Joyti Bose, Principal, Springdales School, Dhaura Kuan, New Delhi	Member
7.	Secretary (School Education) Government of Karnataka	Member
8.	Director, SCERT, Maharashtra	Member
9.	Joint Secretary (Sec. Edn.), Min. of Human Resource Development, Department of Sec. & Hr, Edn, Government of India	Member

10.	Joint Secretary, MHRD, Deptt. of Elementary Education & Literacy, Government of India	Member
11.	Prof. & Head, Deptt. of Educational Secretary Measurement & Evaluation NCERT	Member-

The Committee has been asked to make recommendations on the following points:

(1) The manner in which the testing of school children on sample basis should be structured, e.g., in terms of levels at which, and periodicity with which testing should be done.

(2) The organization which should be intrusted with the task, and the resources which it would need.

(3) The manner in which should be carried out so that the reliable data is generated and disseminated in a timely manner and leads to. in improvement of school education.

The Committee has been asked to submit its report by 31st July, 2006.

Reservation of OBCs in IIMs

19. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in order to cope with additional demand for IIM, additional seats are required for implementation of decision for reservation of 27% seats for OBCs;

(b) whether Government has any proposal in hand or under implementation for setting up more IIMs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) While a decision has been taken in principle to implement the provisions of Article 15(5) of the Constitution, including in respect of reservation of seats for OBCs' by law, it has also been decided to find ways of retaining the number of seats which are not reserved at the present strength. A group of experts has been set up to examine all related issues.