

necessary life skills to enable them to avoid risky situations; to take informed decisions and to develop healthy and responsible behaviour.

#### **Heavy bags of school children**

3410. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the report of the National Advisory Committee to advise on Improving the Quality of Learning while reducing the burden on school students, in its report of 1993 presented to the Ministry had stated that there was no justification for torturing the young children by compelling them to carry very heavy bags of books every day to school;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations of the committee; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Yash Pal Committee in its report "Learning Without Burden" recommended that textbooks should be treated as school property and thus, there should be no need for children to purchase books individually and carry them daily to homes. The Committee recommended that separate time-table for the assignment of home work and for the use of textbooks and notebooks be prepared by the schools. It also recommended that no homework should be given in primary classes. In upper and secondary classes homework should be non-textual.

(c) The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) — 2005 for school education, brought out by NCERT, fully addresses the issues raised in the report "Learning Without Burden". NCF-2005 recommends a shift in learning from rote methods and also focuses on enriching the curriculum to provide for overall development of the child, rather than adopting a textbook, centric approach. New syllabi and textbooks of NCERT reflect the NCF-2005 perspective on curriculum load.

CBSE affiliated schools have been instructed to keep the number of textbooks for all classes limited to that prescribed by NCERT; to implement the policy of 'no school bag' for the children of Classes I and II; and ensure that no home work is given to the children of Classes I and II.

#### **Payment of gratuity amount by Delhi University**

3411. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that retired employees of Delhi University (DU) had been paid gratuity as per CCS Pension Rules instead of Gratuity Act, 1972;

(b) if so, whether Controlling Authority on Gratuity has directed DU to pay Gratuity under Gratuity Act, 1972;

(c) whether retired employees of DU are paid gratuity for the whole service rendered by them;