

(c) Payment of *ex-gratia* of Rs. 6,00,000/- to 3 dead persons at the rate of Rs. 2,00,000/- each and Rs. 1,20,000/- to 8 injured persons at the rate of Rs. 15,000/- each has been made by the Railways.

#### **Survey of standards of education**

3455. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Policy on Education accords priority for improvement of standards of education at all levels for children living in rural and urban areas;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The National Policy of Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) lays special emphasis on the removal of disparities and to equalize educational opportunities by attending to the specific needs of those who have been denied equality so far.

Education as a subject on the Concurrent List, is the shared responsibility of both Central and State Governments. The responsibility of school education lies primarily with the State Governments. The University Grants Commission (UGC), a statutory organization is responsible for co-ordination, determination and maintenance of standards in University Education. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) another statutory organization is vested with statutory authority for planning, formulation and maintenance of norms and standards, quality assurance through accreditation, funding in priority areas, monitoring and evaluation, maintaining parity of certification and awards and ensuring coordinated and integrated development and management of technical education in the country. The National Council for Teacher Education is another statutory body which is responsible for achieving the planned and coordinated development of teacher education system throughout the country and for regulation and proper maintenance of norms and standards of teacher education.

Under DISE (District Information System of Education) School report cards are available which contain data on various aspects of all the schools in the country which is used in planning process of SSA and provide progress on school facilities, etc. No individual school-wise evaluation of schools is done centrally.

In the implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), this Ministry maintains associations with professional bodies like National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) who provide various educational inputs including data on learning achievements, advise for curriculum reforms as per National Curriculum Framework, 2005. NUEPA maintains a data base on

elementary education covering various facets of elementary education which is used in planning of SSA Programme. At the State level, academic resource support is provided through State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs).

#### **Train accidents**

3456. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are over 200 accidents in last 14 months in the country whereas train accidents are rare in most countries;

(b) if so, whether Government had constituted any Body to analyze the factors which could be the basic reasons for those accidents;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the rail safety measures taken by Government for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir. During the last 14 months period of May, 2009 to July, 2010, a total of 116 consequential train accidents excluding incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossing took place on Indian Railways.

As per the records of Accidents Per Million Passenger Kilometers maintained by International Union of Railways (UIC), Indian Railways compare quite favorably in comparison to the advanced countries of Europe. As per the latest available figures, in the year 2006, Accident Per Million Passenger Kilometers in India was 0.0003 in comparison to 0.0015 in Japan, 0.0021 in France, 0.0022 in United Kingdom, 0.0029 in Italy, 0.0042 in Belgium, 0.0046 in Germany and 0.0064 in Switzerland. Since the year 2006, there has been a further improvement in the safety performance on Indian Railways.

(b) and (c) All serious accidents are enquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety which is an independent statutory body under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. During the last 14 months period of May, 2009 to July, 2010, out of 116 consequential train accidents, 20 accidents have been enquired by the Commission of Railway Safety.

(d) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis by the Railways to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices introduced to prevent accidents include provision of Track Circuiting at stations, Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Light Emitting Diode (LED) Signals, Vigilance Control Device (VCD) and pilot projects on Anti-collision Device (ACD) and Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS), etc.