

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that due to lack of electricity students are still deprived of even fans in many schools; and
- (d) if so, whether Government would ensure availability of electricity in school hours to the schools which would be made air conditioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Appointments in ICHR

3447. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that rules were violated in the appointment of consultants and lawyers for Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR);
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Central Vigilance Commission has asked Government to fix responsibility for wrongdoings; and
- (c) the action Government has taken or proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) A reference has been received from Central Vigilance Commission requiring examination of the issues concerning violation of guidelines in engagement of consultants and irregularities in payments to private legal counsels by Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi.

As regards issue of engagement of Consultants, a Fact Finding Enquiry to identify specific lapses, if any, on the part of the officials of ICHR, is presently underway. The issue concerning the irregularities reported in the payment of legal fees to private counsels is under examination in the light of the opinion obtained from the Ministry of Law, Department of Legal Affairs in this regard.

Right to education for children with disabilities

3448. SHRI SHYAM BENEGAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the efforts of the Government to implement the Right to Education Act for children with disabilities and meet their special needs;
- (b) whether education of disabled children is an objective of Government besides care and rehabilitation; and
- (c) the structural reformative action being undertaken by Government to train school teachers of regular schools to meet the educational needs of disabled children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) SSA is the main vehicle for implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. The financial provisions for children with special needs under SSA have recently been revised from Rs. 1200 per child to Rs. 3000 per child, of which Rs. 1000 per child will be earmarked for appointment of Resource Teachers in order to address the needs of children with disabilities. The revised financial provision has come into effect from 1st April, 2010.

(b) The care, rehabilitation and education of persons with disabilities is governed by the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. However, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme, which aims at universal elementary education, seeks to ensure that every child with special needs, irrespective of the kind, category and degree of disability, is provided meaningful and quality education. SSA, therefore, provides for a variety of interventions, including *inter alia* identification of children with special needs, functional and formal assessment of their disability, appropriate educational placement, provision of aids and appliances, transport/escorts allowance, teacher training, appointment of resource teachers, resource support through therapeutical support and rehabilitative care, and removal of architectural barriers to access.

(c) School teachers under SSA are being oriented to the educational needs and requirements of children with special needs through teacher-training programmes. SSA provides for short-duration training as well as 90-day Foundation Course recognize by the Rehabilitation council of India (RCI) to sensitize teachers on the needs, importance and meaning of inclusive education for children with special needs.

Centralized board system

3449. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) how many boards are in existence at present apart from CBSE;
- (b) whether Government is of the view to implement a centralized board system for whole country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) At present apart from CBSE the following boards are in existence:—

(i)	Secondary Boards	—	07
(ii)	Senior Secondary Boards	—	07
(iii)	Combined Boards	—	20
(iv)	National Level Boards	—	02
(v)	Madrasa Boards	—	03