

Information Communication Technology Scheme

*354. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools Scheme and also Education Technology Scheme have been abolished;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an Information Communication Technology Scheme has been launched very recently;

(c) if so, the reasons for abolishing the scheme in the part (a) above; and

(d) the aims and objectives of the Information Communication Technology Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) The Department of Secondary and Higher Education has launched a scheme of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) @ Schools during 2004-05 by merging the scheme of Educational Technology and the revised CLASS Scheme. A component of the Educational Technology Scheme relating to grants to State Government and Union Territories for purchase of colour-Televisions & Radio-Cum-Cassette Players for schools has been discontinued. The aims and objectives of the Scheme of ICT@ Schools are broadly as under:

1) To establish an enabling environment to promote the usage of ICT, especially in rural areas. Critical factors of such an enabling environment include widespread availability of access devices, connectivity to the internet and promotion of ICT literacy.

2) To ensure the availability of quality content on-line and through access devices both in the private sector and by SIETs.

3) Enrichment of the existing curriculum and pedagogy by employing ICT tools for teaching and learning.

4) To enable students to acquire skills needed for the Digital world for higher studies and gainful employment.

5) To provide an effective learning environment for children with special needs through ICT tools.

6) Promote critical thinking and analytical skills by developing self-learning skills of the learner leading to student-centric learning.

7) To promote the use of ICT tools in distance education including the employment of the audio-visual medium and satellite-based devices.

Review of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

*355. DR.AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:

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

(a) whether Government have lately reviewed the progress so far made in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) if so, how far the school-drop out rate of students (i) boys and (ii) girls, has declined as a result of the mission mode adopted towards universalisation of elementary education; and

(c) the reasons for default in smooth working of the mission?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was reviewed in the Governing Council of the National Mission for the SSA held on 21.2.2005 and also by the Joint Review Mission, which visited 8 States in January-February 2005.

(b) The dropout rate at primary level has reduced from 2001-02 to 2002-03 by 2.5 per cent points in respect of boys and 6.16 percent points in respect of girls.

(c) Question does not arise.

Diversion of Satellite signals

*356. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to bring in a law to check blocking or diversion of satellite signals before they are beamed by the TV channels to stop piracy;