

(b) and (c) The year-wise details of the quantity produced and value of production of cotton khadi items as well as the number of persons employed in the cotton khadi sector in Andhra Pradesh during the last four years, are given below:

Year	Production of cotton khadi items in Andhra Pradesh		Employment in cotton khadi sector in Andhra Pradesh (Number of persons)
	Quantity (million Square (Rs. Lakh) metres)	Value	
2001-02	2.718	1073.64 2.758	18000
2002-03	1080.77 2.804	1084.37	20000
2003-04	2.838	1184.21	20000
2004-05			23000

Date for the year 2005-06 are under compilation

(d) The Central Government provides grant to the KVIC for implementing schemes/programmes for the development of khadi and village industries throughout the country, including Andhra Pradesh. Loans are also provided by banks as per the requirements of schemes/programmes.

NCERT's survey of schools

†*211. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that NCERT has conducted a survey of schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan; and

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that according to this survey, education standard in these schools has been found to be very dismal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducted a national survey on "Learning Achievement of Students at the end of Class Vth in 2002 whose report shows that the mean achievement

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[6 March, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

of students in Language, Mathematics & EVS at the national level is 58.57%, 46.51 % and 50.30% respectively.

Ban on private courier companies from carrying email packets

212. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts purpose to ban private courier companies from handling from handling packets weighing less than 500 gms;

(b) whether in pursuance thereof Government would seek an amendment to the Indian post Office Act, 1898; and

(c) whether instead of banning the private couriers from carrying small documents/packages, the Department of Posts would update the skill of its staff and modernize its transit/delivery system to bring it at par with that of the courier companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Indian Post Office Act, 1898 is a more than 100 years old Act. In order to make it up-to-date and to be in consonance with the various developments in the market place and technology developments consistent with international trends, amendment to various existing provisions of this act together with introduction of new provisions is necessary, in this regard, various options are under examination which, *inter-alia*, include reserving the carriage of letters as excluding privilege of Department of Posts upto 500 gms. as against the existing unlimited monopoly enjoyed by the Department of Posts under the Section 4 of Indian Post Office Act, 1898. However, no final view has been taken so far and it is not possible to state any further at this stage.

(c) Updating the skills of the staff of the Department of Posts and modernizations of its transit/delivery system so as to meet its clients' needs an expectations is a constant and ongoing process.

Time concession in CBSE EXAM

*213. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Board of Secondary Education has spelled out time concession to the students for their examination;