

[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;

- (b) if so, the time-limit of such concession;
- (c) how far such a time-limit would be beneficial to the students;
- (d) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to extend time-limit in all types of examination from primary school to the last educational standard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is giving an extra fifteen minutes to candidate appearing in its Xth and XIIth class Examinations to study the question paper before the commencement of the examination. This would help them answer the question paper in an unhurried and better-planned manner.

(d) and (e) CBSE conducts school level examinations only for class X & XII.

Kendriya Vidyalayas in temporary structures

*214. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that about 41 per cent Kendriya Vidyalayas are functioning in temporary structures;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to construct permanent buildings for those Vidyalayas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir, 22% of the Kendriya Vidyalayas are presently functioning in temporary structures.

Newly sanctioned Kendriya Vidyalayas have to be run in temporary buildings till permanent buildings are constructed. Availability of suitable land is a critical factor in constructing permanent buildings.

(c) Buildings for 63 Kendriya Vidyalayas are already under construction, and those of another 5 are being planned. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) is pursuing with the sponsoring agencies to obtain suitable land for the rest.