

Accountability in Education

***127. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Advisory Council wants more accountability in the education system;

(b) if so, whether the NAC has sent its recommendations to his Ministry;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are drafting the Right to Education Bill; and

(e) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) In their recommendations to this Ministry, in the context of operationalising the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Mission, the National Advisory Council has stressed the need for accountability of teachers and Government officials to parents, the community and Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The matter has not yet been finalised.

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Sir, we have an education system which needs a through review, and we need to have more accountability. What are the important recommendations of the National Advisory Council? I also want to know whether the action has been taken on it.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, I agree that accountability is very important in the education system. Sir, when it comes to the accountability of teachers, all the States have constituted community and school-based committees like the Village Education System, and the Parent-Teacher Association. The School Management Committee is basically to supervise and monitor the functioning of schools and teachers. Sir, these bodies have been empowered either through legislation or through executive orders to supervise the functioning of the primary and the upper primary schools also.

Coming to the accountability of the education system as a whole, Sir, the PMO has laid a great stress on the accountability of the education system, and there have been certain areas that have been identified which need focussed attention. These would be, to start online receipt of applications; to also start online processing of the applications received; to set up an Appellate Authority to look into the grievances and also decisions to be made available online; a time-frame for the disposal of the applications received; and a panel of suitable experts for inspection of committees and selection Committees should be prepared. Other than this, Sir, the CBSE should also develop a system wherein mark-sheets and certificates also be provided online, and the U.G.C. should develop a system for online processing of the requests made by the Universities for grants. And other than this, Sir, grants to the universities and colleges should be linked to conditions like the appointment of full-time and qualified faculty.

Turning to the autonomous bodies, Sir, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has been circulating a letter to obtain a framework for carrying out reforms regarding the autonomous bodies. There is also a proposal to hold a meeting with representatives of the autonomous bodies and bureau heads to chalk out a programme for these reforms.

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Sir, my second supplementary is this. It is high time that we should have Right to Education Bill. The answer says, "The matter has not yet been finalised". Sir, I want to know whether the consultations and drafting of the Bill are completed. If so, when are you going to bring the Bill to this House? What is the present status?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, my humble submission to the House would be, to introduce any programme or scheme regarding the welfare of the people, it is not necessary that we need to implement it through a legislation only or it has to come through a legislation only.

With regard to the Right to Education Bill, the draft has already been placed on the website of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, and the States have been asked to send in their recommendations and even the public were asked to send in their applications. And till date, we have received responses only from about

eight States—Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Bihar and Tamil Nadu. Sir, I wonder if the hon. Member has sent in her recommendations and we would be happy to hear from everybody here in the House.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, my question is only concerned with part (d) about the Right to Education Bill. Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any deadline has been set for the presentation of the Bill. If all the State Governments do not respond and if people do not respond, then are you going to fix any deadline? Secondly, what would be the salient features of the Bill?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, I cannot talk on the salient features of the Bill because the recommendations have not yet been finalised and they are yet to come through. Regarding the commitment of the UPA Government, Sir, yes, we are committed to education and we would definitely see that education is given to SC/ST, backward and all the classes. So, we cannot give a time-frame as to when the Bill would be introduced because we are yet to hear from all the States and majority of them have not responded.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: But, you can fix a deadline also. Can you set the deadline?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, we will consider it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question No. 128.

*128. [*The questioner (Shri S.M. Laljan Basha) was absent. For answer vide page 35.*]

श्री सभापति: प्रश्न संख्या 129।

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु: सर, यह तो हो गया।

श्री सभापति: ठीक है।

*130. [*The questioner (Shri Udai Pratap Singh) was absent. For answer vide page 36.*]

*131. [*The questioner (Shri Pramod Mahajan) was absent. For answer vide page 38.*]