

regular schools, and certain other incentives like free uniform to girls can also be provided in educationally backward blocks. In addition, Central Assistance is also being given for provision of cooked Mid-day-Meals to children at the Primary stage, and for running residential schools for girls from weaker sections in selected educationally backward blocks. Taken together, these measures substantially address the problem of participation of all children in elementary education including those who may be staying away from their parents/guardians. Data is collected on out-of-school children but "Children staying away from their parents/guardians" is not a recognized category for which data is collected.

Gandhism In Elementary Education

***371. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce syllabus with text books on Gandhism relating to Gram Swaraj as well as the history of National freedom from elementary level of education; and

(b) whether Government would also like to introduce from elementary education level, the text books based on the rights and duties of citizens and secularism provided in the Indian Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Elements mentioned in the question are already included in the curriculum/syllabus and textbooks of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

Vacant Posts of Teachers In Punjab

***372. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that thousands of posts of teachers, particularly in primary schools in Punjab, are lying vacant since long resulting in a set back to student education;

(b) if so, whether Government have asked for any report from the Government of Punjab; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Out of 38560 posts of primary school teachers borne on the state budget of the Government of Punjab, 13835 posts are presently lying vacant. In addition, 142 posts of primary school teachers created under the centrally sponsored Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme are presently vacant.

(b) and (c) The Government of India have repeatedly urged the Government of Punjab to fill up these vacant teacher positions, at the earliest.

Review of National Education Policy

***373. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to **state:**

(a) whether Government propose a review of the National Education Policy;

(b) the States which have framed their own Education Policy; and

(c) whether his Ministry has examined/scrutinised the Education Policy documents of the State Governments to detect any possible violations of the National Education Policy therein?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The question of review of the extant National Policy on Education (NPE), which was based on an in-depth review of the whole gamut of education situation and formulated on the basis of a national consensus, enunciates a comprehensive framework to guide the development of education in the country in its entirety, has not been taken up so far. Although the NPE provides for review of the implementation of various parameters every five years, it does not provide for the formulation of individual State Education Policies. As such, part (c) of the question does not arise.