

Instrumentation Research Facility, construction of new buildings of the existing Schools/Centres and upgradation of Cyber Library, classrooms and teaching learning facilities. During this period 10 new academic programmes were introduced. As a result, the students' annual enrolment has gone up from 1300 to 1806. The students strength has also risen from 4262 to 6665. The research output has increased by 40% in the form of publications and patents. The number of foreign collaborations has increased from 34 to 117.

Inclusion of Maharani Avantibai Lodhi in history syllabus

†*89. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the information which Government has about Maharani Avantibai Lodhi of Mandla, Madhya Pradesh, who revolted against British Government in 1857 and the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is contemplating to include the life story of Maharani Avantibai Lodhi, in line with Maharani Lakshmibai, in the history syllabus of class 10th and other classes; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The name of Maharani Avantibai of Ramgarh State, today in Mandla district, Madhya Pradesh, will be remembered among the valiant women who sacrificed their lives in the 1857 War of Independence. When various kings and zamindars in the country began uniting against the English, Maharani Avantibai also raised an army of about four thousand and led it herself during 1857. She fought valiantly with the English army and attained martyrdom on 20.3.1858. Government of India had also issued a postal stamp on Rani Avantibai on 30.3.1988.

(b) and (c) The National Curriculum Framework (NCF)-2005 emphasizes reduction of curriculum load. It recommends that syllabi should be illustrative and not exhaustive in orientation and content. Based on the guiding principles of NCF-2005 and the recommendations of the National Focus Group on Teaching of Social Sciences, the NCERT had developed the syllabus in History with a focus on 'themes' and 'involvement of students with the subject', rather than on 'information'. However, the syllabus provides ample scope for the students to expand their knowledge with the help of teachers on any theme by way of different learning enrichment activities. NCF-2005 also lays stress on contextualizing knowledge by utilizing local resources. Therefore respective States are encouraged by NCERT to make use of material appropriate to the local context while developing their syllabus and textbooks.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.