

Medium of instruction in Government schools

†3194. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has considered to provide the right to choose English, Hindi or local language as medium of instruction in Government schools to students;

(b) whether education in the private English medium educational institutions is very costly and it is inaccessible for children of average economic condition and most of the guardians give priority to English medium educational institutions for education of their children; and

(c) whether in view of this Government would consider to bring this change in school education policy and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) affiliated schools including government schools provide opportunity to the students to choose Hindi or English as medium of instruction.

(b) and (c) All private schools affiliated to the CBSE generate their own resources which mainly come from the fees charged by them, whilst the government schools are run by the grants given by the Government. As per the Affiliation Bye-Laws the fee charged by a school should be commensurate with the facilities provided by it. Teaching through English Medium is available in large number of government schools, such as Kendriya Vidyalaya and Navodaya Vidyalaya. There is no proposal to change the school education policy in this regard.

Bringing of private schools under RTE act

3195. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to bring private schools under the ambit of RTE Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the private schools get some kind of grant from Government; and

(d) if so, whether there is a growing demand to make these private schools adhere to the Act?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) and (b) In accordance with the provisions of Section 2(n), the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 applies to all schools imparting elementary education, including private aided and unaided schools. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has, in its judgement dated 12th April, 2012, upheld the constitutional validity of the provisions of the RTE Act, 2009 and has held that the RTE Act is applicable to all schools referred to in section 2(n) of the RTE Act, except unaided minority schools.

(c) Several private schools receive aid or grant from the appropriate Government or local authority to meet whole or part of their expenses.

(d) All private aided and unaided schools, other than unaided minority schools, have to adhere to the provisions of the RTE Act.

Girls' hostels in backward blocks in Gujarat

3196. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps on proposal for setting up Girls' Hostels in tribal and economically backward blocks of Gujarat under Central Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the share of Central Government funds is 59.89 crores;

(d) whether out of this, no funds have been received till date by the State of Gujarat under the scheme,

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government for speedy release of funds; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (f) The Centrally sponsored Scheme titled "Construction & Running of Girls' Hostel for Students of Secondary & Higher Secondary Schools", being implemented from 2009-10, envisages construction of one hostel with the capacity of 100 girls' in each of 3479 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) in the country.

Out of the total 85 EBBs in the State of Gujarat, proposal for construction of 78 girls' hostels was considered and approved by the Project Approval Board. Meanwhile, consequent upon the revision of cost norms for construction of girls' hostels in June 2011, revised proposal based on State Schedule of Rates has been received from the State Government and release of Central share for these hostels depends on acceptability of the revised proposal as per Scheme norms.