

(d) and (e) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has informed that a few complaints/representations have been received requesting to review the rescheduling of vacations, which has been implemented from the session 2012-13 on an experimental basis. It will again be reviewed on the basis of the feedback received from all the Regional Offices of KVS.

### **Promotion of education of Muslims in schools in Delhi**

3939. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a survey by Delhi based NGO has shown that the intake of Muslim children in Delhi's top private schools this year hovered between zero and under one per cent with some rare exceptions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken to prevent discrimination and for promotion of education of Muslims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that no such authenticated survey from any NGO has been received in the Directorate of Education and no survey has been got done by them. Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi has issued instructions from time to time regarding admission in schools which mandate every school to develop and adopt criteria for admission which shall be clear, well defined, equitable, non-discriminatory and unambiguous.

### **Construction of warehouses and cold storages**

†3940. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the policy regarding construction of warehouses and cold storages required for keeping of wheat, etc. and agricultural produce safely in the country;

(b) whether Government is giving any subsidy and rebate in interest rates for the setting up of cold storages and warehouses;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the scheme to give such subsidy and rebate in interest in future;

(e) whether subsidy and other facilities meant for persons setting up warehouses and cold storages had been extended to them earlier; and

(f) if not, by when it would be made available to the rest of such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (f) The Government has notified a National Policy on Handling, Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains in order to introduce bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains, including wheat, procured by the Food Corporation of India. The policy amongst others, envisages harnessing the efforts and resources of public and private sectors for creation of storage facilities in the country.

In order to promote creation of scientific storage capacity for farm produce in rural areas, assistance is provided under the Central Sector Plan Scheme of 'Grameen Bhandaran Yojana' for construction of rural godowns by individuals, farmers, group of farmers, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Companies, Co-operatives, etc. Subsidy @ 25% is provided to all categories of farmers, agriculture graduates, cooperatives & Central Warehousing Corporations/State Warehousing Corporations. All other categories of individuals, companies and corporations are being given subsidy @ 15% of the project cost. In case of North Eastern States/hilly areas and Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs and their cooperatives and Women Farmers, subsidy is provided @ 33.33%. The scheme is demand-driven and viable projects are sanctioned by Banks.

Government has been assisting the development of cold storages under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "National Horticulture Mission" for promotion of horticulture sector. Credit linked back-ended subsidy is provided @ 40% of the project cost for cold storages, controlled atmosphere storages in general areas and 55% in case of hilly and schedule areas for individual entrepreneurs.

Under the Scheme of Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States (HMNEH), assistance is provided for development of post-harvest management and post-harvest infrastructure, including that for cold storages for fruits and vegetables etc. Subsidy @ 55% of capital cost of the project is provided to both public and private sector enterprises for development of cold storages.

As the assistance is provided to viable projects, no rebate in interest is provided under the aforesaid schemes.

### **Falling educational standards**

‡3941. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's expenditure on school education, literacy and higher education in the country has increased during the period between 2009-10 to 2010-11;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase during the above said period;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the reports published for the above said period in the Annual Status of Education (ASE) the educational standards have been acknowledged to have fallen abysmally; and

(d) if so, the reasons behind the absence of improvement in educational standards despite an increase in Governmental expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, The Central Government's expenditure on school education, literacy and higher education increased by over 28% in 2010-11 over the year 2009-10.

(c) and (d) The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) points to decline in the reading and basic arithmetic levels in some States. However, the two rounds of National Learners' Achievement Surveys conducted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) have revealed improvements in the overall learning levels. The findings of the third round conducted recently for class V indicate that there is enhancement in the level of achievement in most States.

### **Quality of research and faculty of IITs and IIMs**

3942. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quality of research and the faculty of IITs and IIMs are not up to the mark compared to the earlier decades and in view of changing globalisation period;

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‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.