

Government vide its proceedings held on 31.12.2010 to conduct a nation-wide survey of populations that have been affected by the use of endosulfan, particularly sprayed from the air, to determine the scope of relief and rehabilitation that may be needed.

ICMR had earlier constituted a Committee to examine the report of National Institute of Occupational Health on the health effects of Endosulfan in Kasaragod district of Kerala, to review the available literature related to its health effects and to suggest future course for research in the area of health effects of Endosulfan. Meanwhile, in writ petition (civil) No. 213 of 2011 “Democratic Youth Federation of India vs. Union of India and Ors.” the Supreme Court of India passed an ad interim order on 13.5.2011 banning production, sale and use of Endosulfan in the country till further orders and appointed a Joint Committee headed by the Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Agriculture Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to conduct a scientific study on the question whether the use of Endosulfan would cause any serious health hazard to human beings and environmental pollution. The Joint Committee has since submitted its interim report.

Promotion of sports in schools

*340. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the Sports Ministry’s request that schools should revamp games infrastructure and bring sports and physical education on the daily schedule;

(b) if so, whether Government is planning to fill up vacancies of physical education teachers throughout the country in schools, create such posts where there is no such post and recruit teachers so that sports and games are made components of Government’s flagship ‘Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan’ (SSA) and allocate some percentage of budget of SSA for promotion of sports in primary schools; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The Conference of Ministers of Youth Services and Sports of States/UTs passed a resolution on 18th November, 2011 that: “Games and Sports should be introduced compulsorily as part of curriculum of education in schools at all levels both in Centre and States. Further, one period each day should be allocated for Games and Sports in all schools. The students’ participation should be graded and evaluated at par with other subjects and adequate weightage should be given to participation in Games and Sports”.

The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 as revised in 1992 provides

that sports and physical education are an integral part of the learning process, and will be included in the evaluation of performance. Further, the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 adopts a holistic definition of health within which physical education and yoga contribute to the physical, social, emotional and mental development of a child.

With a view to promoting sports and physical education in schools a joint letter from the Department of School Education and Literacy, and Department of Sports, Government of India, was written to the Chief Secretaries of States/UTs for integration of sports with school education. States have been requested to ensure that adequate time and space is provided for Games and Sports in the daily school time-table at primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary levels and to fill up the vacancies of physical education teachers.

Further, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 which became operative w.e.f. 1st April, 2010 provides, *inter alia*, for (a) playground for each school; (b) part-time Instructor for Health and Physical Education in upper primary schools where admission of children is above one hundred, (c) supply of play material, games and sports equipment to each class, as required. The Government has revised the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Framework of Implementation to correspond with the provisions of the RTE Act. SSA has also sanctioned 1,05,034 posts of part-time instructors for Health and Physical Education in 2010-11 and 2011-12 on the basis of the proposals received from the States, and States have been advised to fill up the vacancies expeditiously.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Special programme to boost productivity

2481. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a special programme was launched in the year 2010-11 in eastern part of the country to boost productivity in the region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the details of the programme and also about the States which were covered under the programme;
- (c) the total production in the year 2011-12 from this region and the percentage-wise increase in comparison to the last two years; and
- (d) the targets fixed for the year 2012-13 from the region and how it will be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India launched a