

- (iii) To ensure that textbooks encourage classroom pedagogy which enables both teachers and children to explore and use other resources of learning;
- (iv) To ensure that all textbooks reflect sensitivity to gender, caste and class parity and the needs in all subjects of children with disability;
- (v) To ensure that environmental education, peace, health issues and work related attitudes and values are infused in all subjects;
- (vi) To ensure that textbooks are free of errors and distortions; and
- (vii) To review the schedule of textbook publication.

The NMC is still continuing and performing the role assigned to it.

(b) to (d) Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India. It is for the States' School Education Boards to finalise their own Curricula and Syllabi. However, some of the School Education Boards have adopted the NCERT text books.

#### **Passenger train from Gujarat to Shirdi**

\*296. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) by when Railways are going to start passenger train from Gujarat to Shirdi, as there is a sharp rise in pilgrim tourist traffic to Shirdi from Gujarat;
- (b) whether Railways have conducted or are going to conduct any survey in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the specific details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) Trains are not introduced State-wise, but on pattern of traffic demand, operational feasibility and availability of resources. However, introduction of trains from stations like Gandhidham/Okha/Dwarka/Rajkot/Bhavnagar/Ahmedabad/Vadodara/Surat etc. to Sainagar Shirdi station is not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints including non-availability of maintenance facilities at Sainagar Shirdi for primary maintenance of the train and line capacity constraints on Ahmedabad-Vadodara-Surat-Jalgaon-Nandgaon-Manmad sections.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

#### **Sale of sub-standard Urea**

\*297. SHRI RANBIR SINGH PARJAPATI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether sub-standard urea is being provided to farmers thereby damaging their agricultural produce;
- (b) whether fertilizer quality testing infrastructure in the country is grossly inadequate;
- (c) the number of samples of Urea tested during the last three years and how many of them were found sub-standard; and
- (d) the steps taken to check sale of substandard Urea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) No large scale cases of sale of sub-standard urea has been reported and the Fertilizer Quality Testing Infrastructure in the country is not grossly inadequate. Presently, there are 74 Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCL) in the country ( including 4 under the control of Central Government) with a total annual analyzing capacity of 1,30,450 samples. During Eleventh Plan, 14 new FQCL have been established in various States, with the financial assistance from Government of India, which are expected to start functioning shortly. It will help in increasing the fertilizer testing capacity in the country.

The details regarding number of Urea samples tested during last three years and found non standard are as follows:

Year	Urea samples analyzed	Found Non-Standard	% Non-Standard (urea)
2009-10	18747	83	0.44
2010-11	18215	132	0.72
2011-12	20313	117	0.58

(d) Clause 19 of Fertilizer Control Order strictly prohibits the sale of fertilizer which is not of prescribed standard. The State Governments are primarily enforcement agencies and are adequately empowered to take appropriate action in case of violation of the provisions of FCO. The penal provision includes prosecution of offender with an imprisonment upto 7 years under the EC Act besides cancellation of authorization certificate/certificate of producer/dealer and other administrative action.

#### **Standardisation of question papers and marking in board exams**

\*298. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether school education system, especially Board exams, have come under scrutiny over the last few years, with the cut off marks for admission in premier colleges being as high as 100 per cent, creating huge pressure for students;