

Expenditure on providing free text books under SSA

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

(a) whether SSA norms do not provide for inclusion of expenditure on free text books to students of primary schools in SSA budget if concerned State Government was providing free text books to students at the time of commencement of SSA project;

(b) if so, whether this amounts to penalizing the State Governments;

(c) whether Government proposes to change the norms and include the expenditure on providing free text books under SSA budget for all States without any restriction; and

(d) whether Government proposes to reimburse the expenditure borne by Government of Gujarat on meeting expenditure on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) free text books are provided to all children in the age group of 6-14 years at a unit cost of Rs. 150 per set for the primary stage and Rs. 250 per set for the upper primary stage. However, if the textbooks were previously provided from State budgets, the States will continue to provide them.

The SSA supports States/UTs as a supplementary source of funding for providing quality universal elementary education and does not substitute for the investment already being made by the States/UTs.

Inclusion of gender sensitisation in school curriculum

101. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to introduce gender sensitisation and equality in society in the school curriculum in view of the recent scenario of safety of women in the society;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) by when such a subject would be included in the curriculum in schools?