

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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 prioritizes gender as an important guiding principle in all curricular areas. The focus Group Paper on Gender Issues in Education has mentioned that gender is an integral part of all disciplines offered to children at school stage. Gender concerns have been integrated in the curriculum and in the textbooks at an appropriate level. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to offer an elective course on 'Human Rights and Gender Studies' for classes XI and XII. This elective will be offered at pilot stage for CBSE affiliated schools in session 2013-14 and as a regular elective from session 2014-15 onwards.

Conversion of Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad into an IIT

102. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2424 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th December, 2012 and state:

(a) whether the proposal on conversion of Indian School of Mines (ISM) Dhanbad into an IIT was considered at the meeting of the Council of the IITs which was scheduled to be held on 7th January, 2013;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Council in this regard; and

(c) the time by when ISM, Dhanbad is likely to start operating as an IIT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal for the conversion of the Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad, into an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) was discussed in the meeting of the Council of IITs held on 7th January, 2013 and it was decided that the proposal is to be examined by a Committee.

Opening of private universities in Odisha

103. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up private universities in Odisha;

(b) if so, the details of such new universities and those which have already been functioning in the State;