

evaluation system, teacher and school grants for development of appropriate teaching-learning materials, support for learning enhancement programmes for Mathematics and Languages etc.

Teaching standards in Government schools

2894. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that teaching standards in Government-run-schools has gone down;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study to find out the reasons for this trend;
- (d) if so, the details of the findings;
- (e) the steps taken by Government to ensure quality teaching in Government-run-schools in the country; and
- (f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), which uses a rigorous research methodology, conducts very detailed periodic national surveys of learning achievements of children in classes III, V and VIII. Two rounds of such National Achievement Surveys have been completed by the NCERT, which have revealed improvements in the overall learning levels, even though achievements remain low.

(e) and (f) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the State Governments and UT Administrations are supported on several interventions to improve teaching standards, including regular in-service teacher training, a 30-day induction training for newly recruited teachers, the training of all untrained teachers to acquire professional qualifications, the recruitment of additional teachers for better pupil-teacher ratios, the provision of academic support for teachers through block and cluster resource centres, a continuous and comprehensive evaluation system to equip the teachers to measure pupil performance and provide remedial action wherever required, and teacher and school grants for development of appropriate

teaching-learning materials, etc. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 specifies statutory duties and responsibilities of teachers and lays down the minimum qualifications for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in elementary schools, which have been notified by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) in its Notification dated 23rd August, 2010. For secondary education, the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan programme similarly provides for in-service teacher training and academic support to schools for improving teacher performance.

Increasing number of students appearing for CBSE board examinations

2895. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over the years the number of students appearing for CBSE board examinations has been increasing year after year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the quality of education has been deteriorating due to spurt in the number of students and lesser number of teachers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The number of students appearing for the Central Board of Secondary Examinations (CBSE) is increasing every year. The number of students appearing for the class X exam for the last three years has been 893954, 1059441 and 1177701 respectively. For class XII Board exam, 681393 students appeared in the year 2010. In the year 2011 and 2012, total number of students has been 745352 and 786789 respectively.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The schools affiliated with the CBSE are required to ensure a satisfactory level of student-teacher ratio without compromising the quality of education. The Affiliation Bye-Laws of the CBSE provide for 1.5 teachers per section.

Reinstatement of whistleblowers in IITs

2896. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: