

Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has received letters/representations from various organisations to include the teachings of certain saints in the school curriculum. The social science textbooks developed by the NCERT from classes VI to XII encompass the teachings and seminal ideas of many great personalities, both men and women, including saints, philosophers, writers, thinkers and social reformers in appropriate contexts, keeping in view the guiding principles of the National Curriculum Framework, 2005. The Schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) follow syllabi published by the NCERT.

Findings of survey of education

561. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the broad features of the Annual Status of Education survey of 2012 by NGO Pratham;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has all along been insisting upon increasing the number of intake of students instead of infusing quality education to them; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) Rural – 2012, an assessment brought out by PRATHAM presents certain positive findings, including that more than 96% children in the 6-14 years age groups are enrolled in schools in rural areas, while the percentage of out-of-school children in the 6-14 years age group has dropped from 4% in 2009 to 3.5% in 2012. The report expresses concern regarding learning levels of children in schools in rural areas. The study also reports improvement in school facilities.

(b) and (c) While expansion of educational opportunities is indispensable for our growing population, the Government is also committed to improving the quality of elementary education. Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme, several interventions to improve the quality of elementary education, including the recruitment of additional teachers for better Pupil Teacher Ratios, the periodic in-service training of teachers, the distribution of free and improved textbooks, regular academic support for schools and teachers through block and cluster resource centres, a continuous

and comprehensive evaluation system, teacher and school grants for development of appropriate teaching-learning materials, etc. have been put in place.

Toilets in schools in Assam

562. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey in the State of Assam regarding schools which do not have toilets and the number of co-educational schools in which there are no separate toilets for girl and boy students;

(b) if so, the result thereof; and

(c) the present status of implementation of the directive of Supreme Court to provide toilets in all schools within a fixed time-frame in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) According to the District Information System for Education (DISE), 2011-12, 70% of Government/aided elementary schools in Assam have toilets, while 48% of the co-educational schools have separate toilets for boys and girls.

(c) The State Government of Assam has informed us that as per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, temporary toilet facilities have been provided to the remaining Government/Government-aided elementary schools in the State.

Funds for education sector

563. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to provide more funds to education sector which at present hovers around 2.5 per cent of the GDP;

(b) whether since the recommendations of the Kothari Commission, academicians have advocated for funds upto 6 per cent of GDP; and

(c) by when Government would meet the expectations of the academicians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The public expenditure on education as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 3.80% (Provisional) during 2010-11 (Budget Estimates).