

**Teaching of Mandarin in schools**

\*74. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of the initiative taken during the former Minister's visit to China, CBSE affiliated schools were directed to begin teaching Mandarin;

(b) whether that initiative has been put in practice *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2012, as promised;

(c) if so, the details thereof in respect of all the 11,438 schools in the country;

(d) whether the problem of lack of teachers and absence of text manuals has been suitably dealt with; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) to (e) After the visit of the then Minister of Human Resource Development to China in the month of September, 2010, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had invited interest of its affiliated schools for introduction of Mandarin Chinese in class VI from academic session 2011-12.

The following CBSE affiliated schools had expressed interest for introduction of Mandarin Chinese:—

Sl. No.	Name of the category of schools	Number of schools
1.	Kendriya Vidyalayas	331
2.	Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas	100
3.	Independent Private Schools	10
TOTAL:		441

The difficulty faced by the schools in teaching the Mandarin Chinese was inadequate availability of competent teachers. To address this issue CBSE had signed an MoU on 24.08.2012 with Hanban, the official institute under the Ministry of Education, Government of People's Republic of China, which oversees teaching of Mandarin Chinese as a foreign language.

The MoU focuses on the following areas:—

- Exchange of educational material and support systems
- Teachers' training
- Exchange of academic staff, teachers, trainees, experts and students
- Development of curricula
- Assessment standards and curriculum.

**Rangarajan Committee on price of natural gas**

\*75. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the C. Rangarajan Committee has proposed to nearly double the domestic price of natural gas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) its likely impact on the prices of Urea and farmers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The report and recommendations of C. Rangarajan Committee is under consideration of the Government.

**Technical institutions in Bihar**

\*76. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the number of technical institutions, including Industrial Training Institutes, engineering colleges and polytechnic institutions, State-wise;
- (b) whether Bihar has a negligible or small number of technical institutions as compared to the total number of technical institutions in the country;
- (c) if so, whether Government is proposing to increase the number of technical institutions in Bihar to provide for skill and vocational training, especially in view of the high drop-out rate in schools and the low rate of literacy in the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?