

of the present education system, especially in view of the changing standard of the school level education system;

(b) whether Government is considering to incorporate the ancient Indian tradition in the school level education; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The present National Curriculum Framework (NCF-2005) takes care of any new development and concern in the school level education system. Addressing these concerns, the NCF-2005 follows five guiding principles *i.e.* (i) connecting knowledge to life outside the school, (ii) ensuring that learning is shifted away from rote methods, (iii) enriching the curriculum to provide for overall development of children rather than remain text book centric, (iv) making examinations more flexible and integrated into classroom life and, (v) nurturing an over-riding identity informed by caring concerns within the democratic polity of the country.

Various curriculum material developed by the NCERT provide children opportunities to bring experiences in the classroom and also provide scope of infusing arts, heritage craft and work across the subjects at all levels. This help in developing sensitivity towards all culture. Cultural aspects in education are an integral part of school curriculum at all the stages.

Massive Open Online Courses and virtual classrooms

550. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to set up Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and virtual classrooms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a national E-Library is being set up to empower school teachers and students;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Presently the Ministry is doing consultation with different stakeholders to finalize the Implementation Plan of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), Virtual Class rooms and National E-Library.