

PISA's evaluation of education systems

@*202. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is ranked second last among the 73 countries in the Programme for International Student Assessment, 2009 which evaluates education systems worldwide;

(b) whether its results indicate that an Indian eight grader is at the level of a South Korean third grader in mathematical abilities or a second-year student from Shanghai in reading skills;

(c) whether the report states that in Himachal Pradesh only 11 per cent of students have a proficiency in reading literacy that is at or above the baseline level needed to participate effectively in life; and

(d) the reasons for which India abstained from participating in PISA study in 2013?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (b) A Statement is laid down on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) India participated in PISA 2009 on pilot basis only through schools in Tamil Nadu & Himachal Pradesh, in which 73rd rank was assigned by the PISA, 2009 Index. The reasons for poor performance were analysed and it was observed that the nature of questions/items asked in the PISA tests are content free and mostly application-based that require information on international names, brands, trademarks, products, etc. with which Indian students, especially students from rural areas, are unfamiliar .

(b) No such information is available with the Ministry.

(c) As per the final Report on India's Performance in PISA 2009+ cycle, Level 2 in Reading Literacy is considered a baseline level of proficiency at which students begin to demonstrate the reading skills that will enable them to participate effectively and productively in life. As per the report, the Proficiency Level in reading at Level 2 and above is approximately 11 % in respect of Himachal Pradesh.

(d) India has developed its own student assessment systems called the National Pupil Assessment Surveys (NAS), which are independently conducted by National

@ [The questioner (Shri Tiruchi Siva) was absent]

Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) across the country on the latest international Item Response Theory, methodology. The NAS is conducted for classes III, V, VIII & X *i.e.* the critical stages of education, early primary, end of primary, upper primary and secondary levels. The NAS is conducted every three years and provides detailed information on learning outcomes which is useful for teacher training, curriculum development and for improving quality of education. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has also introduced a test called Problem Solving Assessment (PSA) for the student in classes IX and XI from the year 2013, which gives students an exposure to application-oriented testing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questioner not present. Is there any supplementary? Mr. Rapolu, please.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: *Adarniya Sabhapati Mahoday* school is the foundation of society and there is every necessity to assess the improvement of the quality of education. At the moment, we have the system of assessment every three years, wherein there is every necessity to involve advanced technology including the web-based assessment for the schools so that the NCERT could sustain regular assessment of the national level schooling process throughout the country. Is the Union Ministry having any proposal to incorporate the advanced technology into the National Pupil Assessment Surveys?

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Member that the assessment which is currently carried out by NCERT is done on the basis of an internationally acceptable item response theory, which is also utilised by nations such as the United States of America, and the Australian Council also recognises the same methodology. Additionally, I would like, Sir, through you, to tell the hon. Member that a month ago, through the CBSE, we launched a programme called '*Saransh*' which targets the learning outcomes of every student class-wise from IXth standard onwards and makes it available to each CBSE affiliated school so that the school can judge the learning outcomes of their students on the basis of a particular student, a particular class, a particular subject, State-wise, region-wise and nationally.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Shri Digvijaya Singh ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Sir, this is regarding schools coming under CBSE. I would like to know what about other schools which fall under State Government.

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Sir, I would just like to tell the hon. Member that the NCERT survey, which recognises the item-based methodology, is a survey which is conducted across all schools.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, the quality of school education in the country needs to be improved; there is no doubt about it. My question to the hon. Minister is that the NCERT is conducting the National Pupil Assessment Surveys every three years. I would like to know whether they make public the quality of education in every State. Do they bring it in the public domain? That is number one. If they do not, would they like to do it? That will give a rough assessment of the performance of this education system in each State as education is a Concurrent subject. Along with that, the quality of the teachers' education in this country is in a dismal state and NCTE was supposed to issue fresh guidelines. When are the new guidelines coming?

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Sir, through you, I would like to tell this to the hon. Member. Yes, we do share learning outcomes with each individual State with regard to the assessment of our students and the performance of our schools in every State. Also, I would like to highlight it that on the MHRD website, we have school report cards as established by the NUEPA which give us the entire analysis of every school district-wise. In fact, ever since we have brought it to the public domain, there are many citizens who respond to us and tell us that these are informative contextual things which have come in coordination with the States. We have had many citizens who came to us and told us that the school analysis in their district might have some kind of an anomaly, which can be corrected. Hence, by bringing it to the public domain, we have increased our interface with our citizens. Insofar as new guidelines for teachers are concerned, it is not the NCERT but the NCTE which is supposed to bring out new guidelines. We are currently in the process of doing so.

MS. ANU AGA: You know even if we ignore PISA where we came second last, the Pratham ASER Report also shows that our quality of education is moving backwards. The RTE is very input-driven. I am glad that you have said that some quality considerations are now coming in. But one of the main things is teacher training institutes, which are of extremely poor quality. May I know what the Government is doing to assess the teacher training institutes? It should not focus only on input-driven RTE, but see the outcome, which is the quality.

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Member that this is a question pertaining to assessment of students and not assessment of teachers. However, as I had highlighted, through you, Sir, on the question of hon. Digvijayaji, our methodology within our Ministry is to come up with new guidelines for teachers' training, I would also like to add that we have announced teachers' training programme on a national level which includes, keeping in mind new methodologies,

training our teachers not only for primary, upper-primary and secondary education but also for technical education.

Sir, I would also like to say here that independent assessments have been done by third parties in our country wherein we have found that the top three schools, in terms of their results, have been Government schools. Hence, to say that our institutions are completely collapsing, would not be a correct statement.

Coal linkages to private companies for power projects

@*203. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to provide coal linkages to private companies for new and upcoming power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the price at which Government is considering to sell coal to these companies, company-wise and for how long they would get coal at this price;

(d) whether Government is aware that the market price of coal is more than double the price that was prevalent in the open market in September, 2014; and

(e) the reasons for this discounted price provided to private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) As per New Coal Distribution Policy (NCDP), 2007, Standing Linkage Committee (Long-Term) is authorized to recommend the Letters of Assurance (LOAs) for supply of coal. Based on the SLC (LT)'s recommendation, so far 177 LOAs have been issued to various power plants including Central/State Government Sector as well as IPPs (Independent Power Producers *i.e.*, private companies) covering capacity of 108000 MW. Out of this 1,08,000 MW capacity, the competent authority in 2013 had approved signing of Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs) in respect of 78,000 MW capacity power plants which have been commissioned or are likely to be commissioned by 31.03.2015. It was further decided that coal may also be supplied to power plants of 4660 MW capacity and other similarly placed power plants that do not have any fuel linkage subject to the availability

@ [The questioner (Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar) was absent.]