

Release of official portrait of Thiruvalluvar

2391. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the 50th Anniversary of the creation and release of the official portrait of Thiruvalluvar is being celebrated this year; and

(b) what is Government doing to propagate and observe the teachings and the official portrait of Thiruvalluvar in Northern parts of the country to strengthen national integration?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has incorporated messages of the great thinker Saint Thiruvalluvar in the textbook of Communicative Sanskrit for Class X, published by the CBSE. The textbook is prescribed to all the schools offering Sanskrit across the country, including North India. In addition, the CBSE is scheduled to organize an online essay competition to celebrate the life and works of Thiruvalluvar across the country.

Science labs in schools of Maharashtra

2392. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most Government Senior Secondary Schools in Maharashtra do not have decent Science labs which is affecting the science stream;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government proposes to take to set up decent Science labs in all Government schools of the State within a time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) As per UDISE 2013-14, in Maharashtra, 42.33% of higher secondary schools have Physics labs of which 74.72% are fully equipped. 42.37 % of higher secondary schools have Chemistry labs of which 74.98% are fully equipped and 41.02% of higher secondary schools have Biology labs of which 75.31% are fully equipped.

(c) Under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, on the basis of proposals received from States/UTs, funds are provisioned for construction of Science labs as part of establishment of new secondary schools and as part of strengthening of