

north India. In order to popularize Shri Thiruvalluvar's message for greater cultural integration of India, benefiting the society, the work of translation of Thirukkural, an ancient Tamil literature has been given importance by the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai an autonomous organization under this Ministry. A compendium of English translations by 18 different authors has also been compiled and published. Thirukkural has also been translated and published in Telugu, Kannada, Punjabi and Manipuri languages. It has also been translated to Gujarati. CICT has brought out Thirukkural in mobile applications in English. From January, 2015 essay competitions, seminars, debates, etc. based on the life and works of Shri Thiruvalluvar are proposed to be conducted in the educational institutions throughout the country by Department of School Education and Higher Education.

Wages under MGNREGA

*281. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a panel constituted by the Central Government has recommended that the wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) should be equal to or higher than the minimum wages in the States and the wages should be revised every year on the basis of Consumer Price Index (Rural); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government appointed an expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. S. Mahendra Dev to suggest the methodology for resetting the base rate and for suggesting a proper index for revising MGNREGA wage rates yearly. The Committee has recommended to adopt the existing MGNREGA wage rate as in 2014 or the Minimum Wage prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act whichever is higher – as the base rate for 2014. The Committee has also recommended adopting Consumer Price Index (Rural) for indexation of the wages instead of the Consumer Price Index (Agricultural Labour). The recommendations of the Committee are under examination at the Government level.

Budget for salary of teachers under SSA

†*282. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that salary of 36,025 teachers working under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in Chhattisgarh has been cut from the budget;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether an outstanding amount of ₹533.41 crore due to the State Government for the salary of 30,409 panchayat teachers would be released soon by the Central Government; and

(c) by when the payment of ₹230.61 crore would be made by the Central Government to the State Government for the completed construction work of compounds in schools under SSA ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) supports States/UTs by providing funds for specific interventions in order to upgrade the standards of elementary education, in order to fulfil the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provisions. The SSA funds are targeted for additionality to the elementary education sector and not to substitute any States/UTs own investment in this sector.

During the Project Approval Board (PAB) meeting for consideration of Annual Work Plan and Budget of SSA, Chhattisgarh for the year 2014-15, it transpired that 36,025 teacher posts were lying vacant under State sector, whereas the number of teacher posts vacant under SSA was only 3023. The PAB observed that the teacher posts created under SSA were filled up by the State while the State sector teacher posts were lying vacant. Hence, it was suggested to the State Government that they examine the matter so that there is no substitution of teachers on State rolls to funds under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of SSA. The State Government has since reported that 5616 teacher posts have been accommodated with a provision of ₹140.09 crore, on the State budget.

(c) No approval has been given for construction work of compound walls in schools under SSA during the year 2014-15, as priority is to provide schools, additional classrooms, toilets and drinking water facilities in schools.

Construction of roads under PMGSY

*283. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate progress has been made in the construction of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the details of the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) received from various State Governments for approval under PMGSY-II, State/Union Territory-wise;