

Play grounds in schools

†40. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many schools located in various States of the country do not have play grounds even;
- (b) if so, whether Government is considering to take any step in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) to (c) As per Unified District Information System for Education (U-DISE) 2013-14, 58.05 per cent schools at elementary level and 77.66 per cent schools at secondary level have play grounds. States/UTs have been advised to provide these facilities in convergence with other schemes and by making arrangements with other playgrounds/municipal parks, etc. to enable children to play outdoor games *etc.*

Fees exemption for SC/ST students of professional courses

41. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether SC/ST students pursuing professional courses including self-financing colleges are exempted from paying fees at the time of admission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether there is any proposal from the Central Government to exempt SC/ST students from paying fees for professional courses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. (DR.) RAM SHANKAR KATHERIA): (a) to (d) No Sir. The SC/ST students pursuing professional courses in colleges including self-financing colleges are not exempted from paying fees at the time of admission. However this Ministry has issued an instruction to all Centrally Funded Technical Institutions that no fee need to be charged at the time of admission from those SC/ST students who are eligible for Post Matric Scholarship/Top Class Scholarship.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.