

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps are being taken to inculcate skills among students in schools and colleges?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) The National Focus Group's position paper on 'Teaching of Science' a component of National Curriculum Framework-2005 States that a major area of concern is the gradual decline of practical work and experimentation at secondary and senior secondary levels. Considering this concern, the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) Framework, 2009 provides for an integrated science laboratory for the secondary schools. Further, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has developed activity based teaching learning materials, the textbooks, laboratory manuals, teachers handbook and science kits that promotes enquiry, critical and analytical thinking at the secondary stage. NCERT has also been building capacity of Key Resource Persons (KRPs) in science at the secondary stage in all the States/UTs.

(c) The Government has taken various initiatives to promote vocational education and training like the development of the National Vocational Education Qualifications Framework (NVEQF) and later its assimilation in the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF). NSQF would be implemented in educational systems throughout schools, colleges, polytechnics and universities from 2013-14. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has framed guidelines for adoption of Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS) for skill development for all undergraduate and postgraduate level degree, diploma and certificate programmes under the credit system awarded by Central, State and Deemed to be Universities.

At the school level, Central Board of Secondary Education is currently offering various skill based courses at secondary and senior secondary levels to impart knowledge and training that strengthens the core skills of the students from Class IX onwards. The Board has also identified some Skill Knowledge Providers for effectively offering the skill based courses in the schools. The Board is also working for the industry linkages specially meant for the schools and would prepare student database for appropriate internship training /employment.

#### **Strengthening of NCTE**

3191. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Task Force Committee had been constituted by National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) for strengthening the organization;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the task force has submitted its report;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. A Task Force had been constituted by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) for the purpose, which has since submitted its report on 17.7.2014 to the NCTE, with recommendations such as the restructuring of the NCTE headquarters and its Regional Committees, as well as making the Appeals Committee a statutory body, etc.

#### **Contravention of UGC guidelines in JNU**

3192. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister is aware that the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi frames its own rule in contravention of the UGC guidelines with regard to appointment, promotion, career advancement of teaching staff on the basis of their degree obtained from Indian and foreign universities;

(b) if so, the action UGC has taken or proposed to be taken to restrain the university from practising discriminatory rules to favour a few; and

(c) if not, whether the Minister would seek an explanation from the University and undo the damage it has done to the faculty members?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) Jawaharlal Nehru University has reported that it has adopted the recruitment/promotion rules based on UGC guidelines as issued from time to time and the same is implemented after the adoption by the Academic Council and approved by the Executive Council of the University. The University does not discriminate between the degree of Indian Universities and Foreign Universities in regard of recruitment/promotion.

#### **Dalit literacy**

†3193. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of literate persons in the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.