

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A sub-programme under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) nameiy 'Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat' has been launched in all States/UTs with the objective to improve language development in reading, writing with comprehension and to create a positive interest in mathematics. An amount of ₹ 461.38 crore has been sanctioned to States/UTs in 2014-15 for implementing this sub-programme in classes 1 and 2.

Encouraging learning of science and maths

3209.SHRI GARIKAPATI MOHAN RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has prepared a scheme to launch a campaign for encouraging children to learn science and mathematics;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action plan prepared in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The scheme namely, 'Rashtriya Aavishkar Abhiyan (RAA), envisages to motivate and engage children of the age group from 6-18 years in Science, Mathematics and Technology through observation, experimentation, inference drawing, model building, etc. both through inside and outside classroom, activities and processes. It seeks to create curiosity, excitement and spirit of innovation and exploration amongst school children, by encouraging higher education institutions to assist secondary and elementary schools in the study of Science and Mathematics. The RAA would conduct activities by using funds of the existing schemes and institutions of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

The RAA is scheduled to be implemented in a pilot phase from the next academic session.

Official language in IITs and SPA

†3210. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), were established to promote higher technical education;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.