

appraise SHEPs of various States. The appraised SHEPs are then placed before the Project Approval Board for consideration and approval. So far 16 SHEPs have been evaluated and considered by the PAB.

Revision of SSA

681. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has proposed to revise the policy for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) scheme;
- (b) the funds allocated for this scheme;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to include free vocational training along with free education; and
- (d) which are the categories which would be benefiting out of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) There is no proposal for revision of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) scheme.

(b) Central Government funds allocated for the SSA scheme during 2014-15 is ₹ 2433.00 crore.

(c) and (d) Under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, every child, of the age of six to fourteen years, has a right to free and compulsory elementary education in a neighbourhood school. Vocational education is introduced from Class 9 level where students can select from different courses on offer, under the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan programme.

Career-oriented short term courses in universities and colleges

682. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to introduce career-oriented short term courses in universities and colleges across the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of universities and colleges selected for introduction of these courses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The University Grants

Commission (UGC) is implementing a scheme titled “Introduction of Career Oriented Courses (COCs)” in Universities and Colleges in the country to encourage incorporation of skill oriented and value added add-on-courses in Colleges/Universities at Certificate/Diploma/Advance Diploma level. COCs run concurrently with conventional degrees like B.A./B.Com/B.Sc. The guidelines of the scheme are at <http://www.ugc.ac.in/oldpdf/xiplanpdf/revisedcareerorientedcourses.pdf>. Under the scheme, UGC provides financial assistance to Universities/Colleges, eligible to receive grants from the UGC, for introduction of COCs. The Universities/Colleges, which have introduced COCs, are provided with a financial assistance of ₹ 7.00 lakhs as “Seed Money” for five years for Humanities and Commerce stream and ₹ 10.00 lakhs as “Seed Money” for five years for Science Stream. As on date, 6 Universities and 516 Colleges have been approved by the UGC for grant-in-aid for 793 Courses under this scheme.

The UGC is also implementing the scheme of Community Colleges in Universities and Colleges to impart skill based vocational education and training to learners through credit based modular programmes with industry partnership. The guidelines of the scheme are available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/5091249_Community-College-Revised-Guidelines-FINAL.pdf. As on date, there are 157 institutions approved by the UGC, under this scheme, catering to the needs of 76 skill sectors.

Change in examination system of class X

683. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry plans to change the existing examination system of class X held by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and plans to make changes to the current curriculum;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of other upcoming changes to CBSE curriculum?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) Currently, Ministry of Human Resource Development have no fructified plans to change the existing examination system of class X of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). However, CBSE reviews the curriculum for updation from time to time.