

Ratio of dropout

1967. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of dropout from regular education in class VII, X and college level; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for this dropout in future livelihood by bringing any change in regular syllabus systems?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) As per Unified District Information System for Education (U-DISE) 2013-14, the annual average dropout rate in class VII is 1.5 and in classes I to X is 14.54 at national level. The dropout rate at college level is not centrally maintained.

(b) The SarvaShikshaAbhiyan is being implemented with the help of States / UTs in accordance with the norms and standards of the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 to enhance enrolment and retention of children, with context-specific interventions for SC/ST students and a multi-pronged approach for reducing dropout rates. This includes *inter-alia* regular training of teachers, provision for free text books and uniforms to children and provision of mid day meals to the children on school days. The RashtriyaMadhyamikShikshaAbhiyan, a flagship programme emphasis on strengthening of existing secondary schools and opening of new stand alone schools. The schemes like ICT @ school, inclusive education, vocational education and girls hostel under RMSA have positive impact on reduction in dropout rates.

Choice based credit system

1968. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central universities have agreed to move towards a choice based credit system in the coming academic year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that eight workshops have been scheduled in Central universities to explain the transition; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) This Ministry convened a meeting of the

State Education Ministers/Principal Secretaries (Education) on 6th January, 2015 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. The meeting, deliberated on two critical areas of reforms pertaining to introduction of Choice-based Credit System (CBCS) and adoption of Credit Framework for Skill Development (CFSD) at the earliest.

During the meeting, a consensus emerged on the implementation of CBCS and adoption of CFSD across the universities and colleges from the coming academic session *i.e.* 2015-16, as it will not only provide wider options to students but also ensure their seamless mobility across the institutions.

This issue was also discussed in the Retreat of Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities held on 12-13th September, 2014 at Chandigarh, Vice Chancellors' Conference at Vigyan Bhawan held on 4th December, 2014 and VCs' Conference of Central Universities at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi, held on 4-5th February, 2015. In all these Conferences, Vice-Chancellors of all Central Universities agreed to introduce the Choice Based Credit System.

University Grants Commission has approached all universities instructing them to shift from numerical marking system to grading system of evaluation. UGC has already issued guidelines on adoption of CBCS, which is available on the website of UGC at www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/9555132_Guidelines.pdf .

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Eight workshops have been scheduled at different Universities across the country in which all the Vice-Chancellor of Central/State/Private/Deemed to be Universities have been invited.

Problems of children of schools near main roads

1969. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that children studying in schools which are near the main roads are vulnerable to various respiratory and other diseases including dangerous ones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial measures Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The allotment of land for schools falls in the purview of the State Governments and Local Bodies and depends on several factors which, *inter-alia*, include availability of land, location demarcated for schools in the Master Plan and Municipal bye-laws.