

The above trends represents a determined effort on the part of the Central Government for raising public spending on education sector.

**Standard of education in rural areas**

1992. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decline in the enrolment of students in rural areas in Government schools is attributed to lower standards of education in those schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the corrective measures taken/being taken by Government to improve the standard of primary education in the country;

(d) whether Government has received many representations for considering setting up of unified education system like the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) instead of the present system of CBSE, ICSE, State Boards, etc.; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducts National Achievement Surveys (NAS) at periodic intervals to assess the learning levels of children in classes III, V and VIII. Three rounds of NAS have been conducted so far which reveal that the learning outcomes have improved in various subjects, though they continue to be low.

To ensure quality outcomes in government schools, the Central government through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has supported States/UTs on early grade reading, writing and comprehension, and early mathematics programmes through a sub-programme namely 'Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat', and at upper primary level support for mathematics and science teaching learning in 2014-15. States have also been assisted to conduct comprehensive external student assessment surveys to assess gaps in student learning, in order to undertake corrective action. Under the SSA programme, 15.06 lakh teachers have been appointed upto 31.03.2014 to improve pupil teacher ratios, regular annual-in-service teacher training is imparted to all teachers to update their skills and knowledge, free textbooks are given to children and on-site academic support is provided to teachers through Block Resource Centres and Cluster Resource Centres.

(d) and (e) The National Council for Educational Research & Training (NCERT) brings out a National Curriculum Framework from time to time on the

basis of which State Governments revisit their own curriculum and syllabi. In a federal structure of government and education as a subject in the concurrent list of the constitution, states are free to develop contextualized syllabi and textbooks. As far as the Central Board of Secondary Education is concerned, the Board primarily caters to the educational needs of the wards of employees of the Central Government with all India transferable liability and therefore prescribes uniform curricula and evaluation pattern up to 10+2 for all the schools affiliated to it across the country.

#### **Promotion of manufacturing and standardisation**

1993. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of initiatives being taken by Government to promote large scale manufacturing and standardisation in the renewable energy sector of the country;
- (b) whether Government has set any targets for manufacturing and standardization of different renewable energy technologies; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) The details of initiatives being taken by Government to promote large scale manufacturing and standardisation in the renewable energy sector of the country include provision of domestic content requirement in various schemes to source solar cells and modules of domestic origin; exemption of customs and excise duty on input raw material required for manufacturing of cells and modules; capital subsidy for manufacturers under Special Incentive Package Scheme (SIPS) and Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) by Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DietY).

Manufacturing units may also be set up under the Solar Park scheme launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). MNRE has proposed 175 GW power capacity from various renewable energy sources by the year 2022 which will enhance domestic manufacturing and standardization of renewable energy systems/ devices in the country.

#### **US assistance for Renewable Energy Technologies**

1994. SHRI DEVENDER GAUD T.: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether US has agreed to help India for renewable energy technologies;