

Separate toilets for boys and girls in schools of Tamil Nadu

1488. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools having separate toilets for boys and girls in the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) whether there is a provision for disabled friendly toilets in Government schools and Government aided schools in that State and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) State Government of Tamil Nadu has reported that all 37,141 Government schools in the State have been provided with separate toilets for girls and boys as necessary.

(b) The State Government has reported that there is a provision for disabled friendly toilets in Government schools. 8056 disabled friendly toilet units have been provided in 6640 schools where Children With Special Need (CWSN) are enrolled. As per Unified District Information System for Education (U-DISE) 2013-14, 474 aided schools have also provided disabled friendly toilet.

Essay competition on Saint Thiruvalluvar

1489. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, recently UGC is said to have issued instructions to colleges to conduct essay competitions on the life of Saint Thiruvalluvar;

(b) if so, how many colleges in which region/regions were instructed and how many of those conducted the competition as per instructions; and

(c) whether Government is planning to induct the life story and message of Thirukkural in the syllabus of North Indian schools and colleges for enhancing national unity?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that it had issued a letter on 30th June, 2015 to the Vice-Chancellors of all Universities, requesting the Universities and affiliated colleges to organize essay competitions, seminars and debates based on the life and works of Shri Thiruvalluvar. The UGC has informed that four Universities and one College have indicating their interest in undertaking the activities in the UGC letter.

(c) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has incorporated messages of Shri Thiruvalluvar in textbook of Communicative Sanskrit, published by the Board, for Class X. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has reported that it has published a supplementary reader entitled “Thirukkural” for students and teachers to assist “activities” taken under the History part of Social Science syllabus. Further, a detailed entry on ‘Sangam Literature’ has been provided in a three-language ‘Dictionary of Historical Terms’ of NCERT. These measures aim at spreading Thirukkural’s messages among students for imbibing the values inherent in this text. Regarding Universities and Colleges, the UGC has already communicated to these institutions to take up various activities based on the life and works of Shri Thiruvalluvar. Universities frame syllabi with the approval of their Academic Councils.

Schools imparting computer education

†1490. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government and Government-aided secondary and higher secondary schools in the country where computer education is being imparted, State-wise;

(b) the number of such schools, where there is no supply of electricity or the electricity supply is erratic and the means by which supply of electricity is ensured to operate computers in such schools, State-wise; and

(c) the total number of such schools, where either computer education is not being imparted due to dearth of computer teachers or the computer education is being imparted by engaging computer teachers from outside, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Under “Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Schools” Scheme, which is now a component of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), financial assistance is provided for promotion of computer enable learning and computer literacy in Government and Government Aided Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools. So far, 85335 Government and Government Aided, Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools have been approved for coverage under ICT component of converge RMSA scheme. The State-wise list of number of schools covered under ICT component of converged RMSA scheme is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.