

Kumar Roopanwal (Retired), in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952 (60 of 1952), to enquire into the events at the University of Hyderabad, culminating in the death of Shri Chakravarti R. Vemula.

(b) No communication had been received from any Minister/Member of Parliament regarding death of Dalit research scholar in January, 2016 thus far.

Safety audit of school premises

241. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) in view of recent increase in the number of incidents of deaths of children in school premises, whether Government has issued instructions to all the stakeholders including State Governments to conduct safety audit of school premises to ensure that there are no safety hazards, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether compliance would be ensured by Government by monitoring the situation; and

(c) whether any special task force would be constituted to conduct periodical inspection of the school premises, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Human Resource Development has issued guidelines to all States/UTs *vide* letter dated 09.10.2014 on safety and security of children in schools. As per these guidelines, safety and security of the children in schools is the responsibility of school authorities. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has also issued safety guidelines to all its affiliated schools *vide* circulars dated 26.07.2004, 09.10.2014 and 19.12.2014. Education being a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India, and majority of the schools being under the purview of the State Governments, it is for the respective State/Union Territory Governments to take appropriate action in this regard. There is no proposal to constitute a task force to conduct periodical inspection of the schools.

Personalisation of education

242. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is of the view that personalizing education, *i.e.*, not obsessively controlling what would be the syllabus and the method of instruction,

could lead to an explosion of new and innovative courses geared towards serving various niches of learners; and

(b) if so, whether Government has contemplated any proposal to introduce such provision, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) The Government is in the process of framing a New Education Policy (NEP) for which it has carried out nearly a year-long consultations, which included online, grassroots and national level thematic deliberations on 33 identified themes.

Three themes, one under School Education and two under Higher Education, are relevant to personalisation of education from the perspectives of new and innovative courses. Under School Education, the theme "New Knowledge, pedagogies and approaches for teaching of Science, Maths and Technology in School Education to improve learning outcomes of Students", underlines the need to deliberate and find workable strategies for strengthening the quality of teaching-learning processes for better outcomes; innovations and diversity of approaches in matters of curricula, pedagogies and use of technology to improve the learning levels. Under Higher Education, the theme "Opportunities for technology enabled learning", seeks to understand the complexities around having a robust framework for technology enabled education, the human and infrastructural facilities that can fully exploit the opportunities of TEL and understanding to what extent do our institutions leverage the potential of ICT for improving access and quality of general and technical education and also faculty development. Another theme "New Knowledge" recognizes that today there is a dynamic knowledge based society and newer technologies and challenges are seeing the birth of new areas of study. Accordingly, our higher education institutions must identify the new domains of knowledge in the global scenario and build up their capacities to meet this need.

The Government of India has constituted a Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy and the suggestions received on these themes have been forwarded to the Committee. The Committee consists of Shri T.S.R. Subramanian, Former Cabinet Secretary as the Chairman and Smt. Shailaja Chandra, former Chief Secretary, NCT of Delhi, Shri Sevaram Sharma, former Home Secretary, NCT of Delhi, Shri Sudhir Mankad, former Chief Secretary, Gujarat and Prof. J.S. Rajput, former Director, NCERT as members. The Committee is expected to examine the outcome documents, recommendations and suggestions received and formulate a draft National Education Policy as well as a Framework for Action (FFA).