

taken various steps to reduce curriculum load and the weight of school bags. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has not recommended any textbook for early childhood education. It has recommended only two books (Language and Mathematics) for classes I & II and three books for classes III to V (Language, Environmental Studies and Mathematics). The number and size of NCERT's textbooks used by the primary and secondary school students are appropriate to their age. NCERT has also made available all their textbooks for free access through the web (*e-pathshala.nic.in*) and mobile devices. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has directed schools affiliated to it to ensure that students do not carry school bags till class II and also to restrict the number of books to be prescribed in classes I-VIII. In its latest circular dated 12th September, 2016, it has advised schools to take all possible measures to keep the weight of school bag under control.

(b) No such study has been conducted or is being conducted by the Government of India to find out if the weight of the school bag has led to spinal diseases in the school children.

#### **Targets for construction of toilets in educational institutions**

222. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total target of educational institutions to provide/construct toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission during 2nd October, 2014 to 2nd October, 2016; and

(b) the total number of educational institutions where toilets construction was achieved during 2nd October, 2014 to 2nd October, 2016, under Swachh Bharat Mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) Under the Swachh Vidyalaya Initiative it was decided to construct toilets in all elementary and secondary Government schools in a period of one year from 15.08.2014 to 15.08.2015.

(b) During this period, 4,17,796 toilets were constructed in 2,61,400 elementary and secondary Government schools.

As regard Central Universities, UGC has not specifically allocated funds to construct toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission. However, UGC provides funds under Plan in the form of Block Grants to Central Universities with freedom in construction of various projects, including toilets.