

Dwindling reading habit amongst students and public

1027. SHRIMATI MISHA BHARTI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that many important book stores of repute in Delhi and elsewhere are closing, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that reading habit amongst the students and the public does not dwindle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Human Resource Development has taken various steps to promote reading habit amongst the students and the public, as below:—

- (i) Under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), assistance is provided to State Governments and UT Administration for universalizing elementary education for children in the age group of 6-14 years, which *inter alia* includes funding teacher training, learning enhancement programmes, provisioning of text books, one time grant for setting up of libraries etc.
- (ii) A sub programme of SSA “Padhe Bharat, Badhe Bharat” with focussed interventions to improvise foundational reading, comprehension and reading skills of children in Classes I and II, is under implementation since August, 2014.
- (iii) Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) provides support to construct Library Room including furniture almirah, racks fixtures, fittings, circulation area (verandah) etc. as per norms in Government Secondary School. Further, the school annual grants given under RMSA can be utilized among other purposes for provision of books, teaching aids, maps charts, etc. The scheme also envisages support of community to provide for books and furniture etc. in the library.
- (iv) UGC has implemented the scheme of General Development Assistance under which Financial Assistance is given to eligible Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) for Development of infrastructure including institutional libraries and reading material etc.
- (v) Further, National Book Trust, an autonomous body under administrative control of Ministry of Human Resource Development, has taken various steps through-organization of book fairs and book exhibitions across the country at various levels, participation in book fairs organised by various publisher's

associations, organisation of annual New Delhi World Book Fair, publication of reasonably priced quality books for general readers and children, giving subsidy to literary organization/voluntary organizations for reading promotion activities in remote/rural areas. It also caters to the reading requirements of adults/neo-literates and organises "Pustak Parikramas" through its exhibition vans with a view to reach out to those living in difficult terrain. All book promotional activities organized by NBT in various States are in collaboration/association with schools and universities or literary agencies to reach out to students and public of all ages.

Low level of education in Government schools

†1028. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards a survey conducted by Education Directorate under Chunauti 2018, according to which 46 per cent of class VI students of Government schools of Delhi cannot read the books prescribed for class II students, 67 per cent students cannot do simple multiplication and 13 per cent students do not recognise alphabets;

(b) if so, whether such condition is due to lack of interest among students or faulty educational system;

(c) the steps taken to make education simple and interesting; and

(d) whether Government would make any efforts to improve the level of education throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) Yes, Sir, as informed by Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi, a base line survey in the month of July, 2016 was done to assess the learning levels of all the children in class VI and children scoring less than 33% in their previous classes (before promotion to class VII, VIII and IX *vide* No Detention Policy), in English reading, Hindi reading and basics of Mathematics by the teachers of the Directorate. Child-wise data was digitized by the Directorate of Education for nearly 5.8 lakh children.

(b) As informed by the Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi, no formal study has been conducted to diagnose the reasons behind low achievement levels among class VI students.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.