

(c) to (e) Arising of vacancies and filling them up with suitable, qualified candidates is a continuous process. The IITs have been taking measures to attract quality faculty, which include year-round open advertisements, invitation through search-cum-selection procedures to alumni/scientists/faculty, advertisements in international journals, and appointment of NRIs and PIOs to faculty positions on the same terms as applicable to regular faculty. In addition, Institutes are engaging contract, adjunct and visiting faculty. The Government has also launched the Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN) to enable foreign faculty to teach some courses in the higher educational institutions. Steps such as outstanding young faculty awards, mobility of faculty from one Central Educational Institute to another, and pay parity to faculty have also been taken to attract best faculty in these Institutes. There is no adverse effect on studies in the institutes due to shortage of faculty, as the same is adequately compensated by the research scholars, contract, adjunct and visiting faculty.

Dropout students in Assam tea garden

1031. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dropouts in Assam, especially in tea garden areas are very high;

(b) if so the details thereof and the number of dropout students after primary level and secondary level during the each years from 2013-14 to 2016-17 in Assam, tea garden-wise;

(c) the reasons for dropouts in tea garden; and

(d) the step been taken by Government to reduce the number of dropout students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) and (b) The Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) does not capture information specifically for tea garden areas in Assam. As per UDISE, dropout rate at primary level in Assam shows an increase from 6.3% in 2013-14 to 7.4% in 2014-15. At upper primary level, dropout rate in Assam shows a slight decline from 7.3% in 2013-14 to 7.1% in 2014-15. At secondary level, dropout rate shows 26.77% in 2012-13, 30.43% in 2013-14 and 27.06% in 2014-15.

(c) The State has reported that some of the reasons for dropout at elementary level in Assam, including the tea garden areas, are involvement of children in

domestic activities and taking care of siblings, not getting support at home in learning and difficulty arising out of medium of instruction being different from the spoken language of children at home. At secondary level, this is due to lack of access to schools, lack of transportation facility, adolescence issues, migration of parents and other socio economic factors.

(d) Various steps have been taken to prevent dropout rate at elementary level namely focusing on child centric and joyful teaching-learning, providing teaching learning materials, providing text books, uniform, Mid Day Meal, library books, addressing infrastructural requirements like classroom, separate toilets for boys and girls, providing aids and appliances to Child With Special Need (CWSN) children, providing play materials, enrolment drive, public meeting etc. At the secondary level, various steps have been taken through the Integrated Rashtriya Madhayamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) which envisages enhancing the enrolment of classes IX-X by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation and improving quality of education through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, removal of gender, socio-economic and disability barriers.

Board exam for Class X

1032. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether doing away of the Class-X board exam six years back has affected academic standards adversely;

(b) whether the CBSE Class-X Board exams were scrapped to reduce pressure on students; and

(c) if so, what balanced approach to this issue would be adopted by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) to (c) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), from time to time, receives feed back from stakeholders. On analysis of the feedback, it has been found that due to school based exam, students were losing the habit of regular studies and not preparing for the exam as they used to do earlier. The option to choose between School Based and Board based examination has resulted in reduced commitment for learning. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has now taken a view to make Class 10th Board exam compulsory from Academic Session 2017-18 after following due process.