

Government for universalization of elementary education and it is the main vehicle for implementation of RTE Act. The Department of School Education & Literacy had issued Guidelines/Advisory dated 26th March, 2014 under Section 35(1) of the RTE Act, 2009 to all the States and Union Territories including Maharashtra for elimination of Corporal Punishment in Schools. These guidelines; *inter alia*, include suggested guidelines for affirmative action in schools towards positive development of children while addressing difficult situation in schools.

Fall in expenditure on education

3904. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spending on education as a share of the Centre's total budgeted expenditure has been falling for last three years; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) and (b) Percentage share of expenditure by Ministry of Human Resource Development to total Government Expenditure is 4.57% in 2013-14, 4.14% in 2014-15 and 3.77% in 2015-16. However, with the devolution of more funds to the States as recommended by the 14th Finance Commission, States are in position to prioritize allocation of funds to education sector.

Study centre of NIOS in Gujarat

3905. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any information about the study centre and exam centre of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) running in the guest house at Dwarka in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the action taken against the institute; and

(c) whether Government has taken action against the regional authority which had given the permission to start such NIOS centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) No Study Centre and Exam Centre of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) is running in the guest house at Dwarka in Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.