

(c) As per World Industrial Property Organisation (WIPO), India with 40 patents per million population ranks low in comparison to the world leaders namely South Korea (2,962), Japan (2,250) and Switzerland (1,013).

Reuse of textbooks for curtailing wastage and expenditure

2452. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to implement, in schools and colleges, the USA practice of providing textbooks to students in the beginning of the academic year and taking it back at the end of the academic year so that same books could be used during the next year for the new batches in order to curtail expenditure and wastage;

(b) if so, by when it would be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Education is in the Concurrent List and majority of the schools and colleges are under the purview of State Governments and it is for the States to take appropriate action in the matter of regulating the provision of textbooks to the children under their jurisdiction.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, mandates free and compulsory education for all children in elementary Government schools. In pursuance of this mandate, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) supports provision for textbooks to all children in Government/local body and Government aided schools, including Madrasa desirous of introducing State curriculum, within the upper ceiling of ₹ 150/- per child at primary level and ₹ 250/- at upper primary level.

Career counselling sessions in schools

2453. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no necessary provisions for career counselling sessions for class 11 and 12 students in Government run schools and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is planning to make career counselling sessions mandatory in all Government senior secondary schools, keeping in view that students are quite confused on what they should study further; and