

(b) and (c) There has been one instance of sexual abuse reported to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) against its affiliated schools in Navi Mumbai in the year 2016.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir, Kamlesh Vaswani had filed a writ petition (Civil) No. 177 of 2013 in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. In this case Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) had filed an additional affidavit as under:

- (i) It may not be feasible to install jammers inside the school premises since jammers in schools will block internet access to computers used by children. However, in order to prevent access of pornographic sites on the cell phones by the Driver or anyone who is in charge of the children in the buses they can be installed in the buses.
- (ii) The Proposal to have one male and female child counselor in every school and special workshops conducted in schools for awareness of sex education can be considered.

The matter came up for hearing on 14.07.2017 in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The next date of hearing is 21.08.2017 and the matter is presently *sub judice*.

#### **Review of textbooks**

2133. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:

SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to undertake a review of all school text books;
- (b) whether Government is considering to include GST and demonetisation in the revised textbooks, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the review of all textbooks taught from Class I to XII was meant to apprise school children of recent developments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) review their textbooks while bringing

out their reprint edition every year. This year also the NCERT is reviewing all their textbooks for classes I-XII based on the feedback received from students, teachers, parents and the general public.

(b) NCERT has decided to incorporate the contents relating to Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Demonetisation in existing chapters of various subjects, such as Economics, Business Studies, Accountancy and Political Science at different stages, while bringing out the reprint editions of their textbooks for the academic year 2018-19.

(c) The review broadly pertains to rectification of factual errors, if any, and updation of data.

#### **Quality of education in rural areas**

2134. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 50 per cent students of Class VIII in rural areas of our country cannot read or understand simple English sentences, as per the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER);

(b) whether the number of students in rural areas who can read and understand simple English has also dropped by 15 per cent during the last seven years;

(c) whether Government proposes to give priority to increase the quality education and enhance the skills of teachers and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the improvement in quality of education in rural areas is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) and (b) PRATHAM, a non-governmental organization conducted the annual achievement surveys released in the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER). It is a household survey, limited to rural areas of the country. The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development was not associated with this ASER-2016 survey.

(c) and (d) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 lays down the duties of the appropriate Government and the local authority