

Anti-terrorist content in school curricula

†2009. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to include anti-terrorist contents in school curricula to create awareness about terrorism;

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the alternate measures taken to create such awareness among students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) to (c) The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 seeks to nurture ethical development, inculcating the values, attitude and skills required for living in harmony with oneself and with others, including nature. It encompasses respect for human rights, justice, tolerance, cooperation, social responsibility and respect for cultural diversity, in addition to a firm commitment to democracy and non-violent conflict resolution. These concerns are already reflected in the syllabi and textbooks of different stages of school education, brought out by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). The NCERT Political Science Textbook for the Higher Secondary stage explains the phenomenon of terrorism to create awareness among students. Similarly, the Political Science textbooks for classes XI and XII provide detailed content, including images on various dimensions of terrorism.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has circulated amongst all its affiliated schools the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs for dealing with any terrorist attack on schools and advised them to comply with the same.

Prohibition on establishment of new engineering colleges

2010. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AICTE is planning to introduce prohibition on establishment of new engineering colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) by which academic year this decision would come into force and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Protection of languages

2011. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many languages are prevalent in India, spoken in different region by various community, sects and tribes etc. and how many have their own script;

(b) whether it is a fact that many of such languages have already become extinct or on the verge of extinction during the last fifty years, if so, which are those languages and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government is taking to protect these languages along with the culture and traditions interlinked with such languages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) Although there are 22 major languages listed in the 8th schedule of the Constitution of India, as per Census of India, there is a list of another 100 languages which are spoken by more than 10,000 speakers. Some academicians have placed the number of Indian languages to be around 1000. Most of these, however, do not have a writing tradition or a script. There is no official record of languages of India that have become extinct in the last 50 years.

The Government of India has initiated a scheme known as “Scheme for the Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages (SPPEL)” in 2013. Under the Scheme the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru works on protection, preservation and documentation of all the mother tongues/languages of India spoken by less than 10000 people. In the first phase of the scheme, 117 endangered languages/mother tongues have been chosen from all over India for study and documentation on a priority basis. In total, 520 languages/dialects/mother tongue are planned to be documented under this project. The University Grants Commission has also initiated two schemes for State and Central Universities for protection of endangered languages. Under the scheme “Funding support to the State Universities for study and research in indigenous and endangered languages in India”, seven State