

**Promotion of regional languages**

†1505. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering to promote regional languages equally along with Hindi;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any step in this regard so far; and
- (c) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) Government's Policy is to promote all Indian Languages. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is offering 38 languages at secondary level out of which 28 are regional Indian Languages including Hindi. CBSE offer 32 languages at Senior Secondary level and out of these 24 are regional Indian Languages including Hindi. The Government of India has initiated a Scheme known as "Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India". Under this Scheme, the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore works on protection, preservation and documentation of all the mother tongues/languages of India spoken by less than 10,000 speakers.

**Lessening School Bag burden on Students**

1506. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government schools in Kattampally in Kannur district of Kerala has started a unique programme to minimize the burden of schools bag under which the students need not carry school bag to school but school make arrangement to bring schools bag of child to school;
- (b) the reasons for not replicating this unique and less burdensome initiative which helps students;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Yashpal Committee in 1993 also recommended "learning without burden"; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Ministry on this recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) The State Government of Kerala has informed that a Government Upper Primary school in Kattampally in Kannur district has a unique programme named "Bag vandi" (Bag vehicle) in which the school

has arranged vehicles to carry the school bags of children to school and return home. Students walk to school and back to home free of the burden of their school bags.

(b) The State Government of Kerala has informed that the programme “Bag vandi” is evolved and developed in tune with the geographical and Socio-Culture feature of the particular locality. Most of the Schools in the State have school buses and the children utilize the facility. Special vehicle for bags is not practical in all schools.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The issues related to curriculum load raised in the Yashpal Committee Report (1993) on “Learning Without Burden” were, inter-alia, taken into consideration at the time of framing of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF)-2005 by the National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT). The Government has taken various initiatives to reduce the curriculum load and the weight of school bags. Some of the initiatives taken in this regard are as under:—

- (i) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has recommended only two books (Language and Mathematics) for classes I and II and three books for Classes III to V (Language, Environmental Studies and Mathematics). NCERT has also made available all their textbooks for free access through the web ([epathshala.nic.in](http://epathshala.nic.in)) and mobile devices. Further, the NCERT has initiated an exercise to review its syllabus with a view to reducing the curriculum load on the students.
- (ii) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has directed schools affiliated to it to ensure that students do not carry school bags till Class II. In its latest circular dated 12th September, 2016, it has advised all its affiliated schools to take all possible measures to keep the weight of school bag under control.
- (iii) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan implemented a Pilot project e-Prajna with the distribution of 5000 Tablets to all the students of class-VII in 25 Kendriya Vidyalayas (One KV from each region ) to reduce the burden of bag. Teachers will use the tablets in classroom to teach science and mathematics for enhancing core skills in the subject.

#### **Non-updation of Redundant Books of NCERT**

1507. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of text books in NCERT have become redundant due to their non-updation;