(iv) giving special dispensation to such universities regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institution of India.

(b) and (c) Implementation of the Policy requires multiple initiatives and actions including necessary legislative framework, and it will be led by various bodies including Ministry of Education, Central Advisory Board of Education, Union and State Governments, education related Ministries, the regulatory bodies, and Higher Education Institutes (HEIs), in order to ensure that the policy is implemented in its spirit and intent, through coherence in planning and synergy across all these bodies involved in education.

Concerns due to shutdown of educational institutes

1308. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether with extension of shutdown of educational institutions till the end of September, 2020, the academic session 2020-21 has lost nearly 6 months;

(b) if so, plans by the Ministry to manage completion of syllabus within the available few months;

(c) whether online classes are also only for 2-3 hours and very limited subjects can be taught in these hours and there are no practicals for students which hampers science students; and

(d) whether the Ministry will consider starting, at least higher classes to begin with and subsequently the other classes?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) to (c) To address the issues related to gaps and/or loss of learning among students, during and after the lockdown, NCERT has prepared 'Alternative Academic Calendar' and 'Students' Learning Enhancement Guidelines' with a focus on learning outcome. The guidelines suggest models for the following three types of scenarios:-

I. Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students without digital devices.

II. Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students with limited accessibility to digital devices.

III. Learning Enhancement during COVID-19 for students with digital devices.

It consists of interesting activities and challenges related to topics/theme in the syllabus. Students interact with teachers, develop projects and record their work. Teachers record the conduct of Practical work and share it with Students online. Schools are also exploring the possibilities of conducting virtual experiments with the help of O labs, Amrita virtual Labs and other similar platforms.

Further, for Rationalisation of Syllabus for Summative Examinations, CBSE has reduced the syllabi only for the purpose of examinations to the extent of thirty percent. This has been done in view of change in the mode of conduct of classroom transaction which is new both for parents and teachers.

A multi-pronged approach has been adopted leveraging technology to reach the students. Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA), Study Webs of Active-learning for Young Aspiring Minds(SWAYAM), SWAYAM PRABHA, MANODARPAN for psychological support, PRAGYATA Guidelines on Digital Education, e-textbooks etc. are used by schools, colleges and universities to provide learning facilities. Where the internet facility is not available, SWAYAM PRABHA is being used to impart education through TV. Community Radio Stations and a podcast called Shiksha Vani of CBSE is also effectively used in remote areas where online classes are difficult. In addition, the Ministry has also issued the guidelines dated 13th July, 2020 for continuing education of children of migrant labourers to prevent loss of learning or academic year.

(d)   Ministry of Home affairs(MHA) vide order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 29th August, 2020 has issued guidelines on unlock 4 which provides that in areas outside the containment zones, schools, colleges, educational and coaching institutions will continue to remain closed for students and regular class activity up to 30th September 2020. However, following is permitted.

(i)   Online/distance learning shall continue to be permitted and shall be encouraged.

(ii)   States/UTs may permit upto 50% of teaching and non-teaching staff to be called to the schools at a time for online teaching/tele counselling and related work, in areas outside the Containment Zones only, with effect from 21st September, 2020.

(iii)   Students of classes 9 to 12 may be permitted to visit their schools, in areas outside the Containment Zones only, on voluntary basis, for taking guidance

from their teachers. This will be subject to written consent of their parents/ guardians and will be permitted with effect from 21st September 2020. The MHA guidelines on unlock 4 have been shared with Education Department in States and UTs.

Extension of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan

1309. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) was completed in March, 2020;

(b)   whether Ministry feels that there is a need to extend this scheme further;

(c)   if so, whether any proposal has been sent by the Ministry to the Ministry of Finance for further continuation of the scheme;

(d)   if not, the reasons therefor;

(e)   whether RUSA is extended till 15th Finance Commission submits its report, which is a very short time and there are demands to extend this till the award period of 15th Finance Commission; and

(f)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) The second phase of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) was approved by the Cabinet Committee for Economic Affairs for a period of three years *i.e.* 1st April, 2017 to 31st March, 2020.

(b) to (f) The Ministry of Finance vide their O.M. no. 42(02)/PF-II/2014 dated 10th January, 2020 has given an interim extension of the schemes beyond 31st March, 2020 till 31st March, 2021 or till the date the recommendations of 15th Finance Commission come into effect, whichever is earlier. Further, according to this O.M., the approval for continuation of the scheme for the 15th Finance Commission cycle would be based on an evaluation report and outcome review.