

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.