

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has informed that a seven point grading system was introduced for classes VI-VIII in a phased manner from academic session 2006-07.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

### **English as stumbling block for students**

1539. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI), English remains a stumbling block for thousands of students;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are seriously deliberating to prepare the students to overcome this problem and to go ahead in studies with brimming confidence; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The National Commission of Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) has not expressed its opinion regarding English being stumbling block for the thousand of students.

(d) and (e) As per CBSE scheme students have to study two languages of which one will be Hindi or English. Hence, students who are not proficient in English have option to opt for Hindi or any other language provided in the curriculum. However, CBSE provides two courses in English at secondary level and three courses at senior secondary level, students can choose any of these courses as per their needs and level of competence in the language.

CBSE Scheme of Studies has adequate inbuilt flexibility to cater to the differing and diverse needs of the students. The Board also brings out student support materials such as sample question papers and marking scheme in all major languages including English and other subjects to help students prepare effectively for the examination. Counselling before public examinations is provided by the Board to improve the self confidence of students and to clear their doubts so that they can write the examination confidently. The Board also conducts teacher training programme to equip the teachers with the needed professional skills and knowledge so that they are able to prepare the students effectively.