

Quality of text books

73. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the poor quality of text books printed for the primary and secondary school level particularly by NCERT;

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

(c) the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) The quality of textbooks printed by the National Council Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for the primary and secondary level are as per the norms and best practices followed for textbook production in the country. These textbooks are printed on 80 GSM Maplitho paper for text and by using 220 GSM Pulp Board for cover, which has now been upgraded to Art Card. These are considered to be the best for Text book printing.

Toilet facilities in schools

74. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any complaints regarding non-availability of basic toilet facilities in some schools across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Hon'ble Supreme Court has also issued directions to States/ Union Territories to ensure that basic toilet facilities particularly for girls students are provided in all schools within six months; and

(d) if so, the action taken/being taken by the Centre/States in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) As per the District

Information System for Education (DISE) 2011-12 (provisional), 87.9% government elementary schools in the country have toilet facilities. Similarly, 57.83% schools at secondary and senior secondary level have toilet facilities as per the Secondary Education Management Information System (SEMIS) 2010-11.

(c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in writ petition (Civil) No. 631 of 2004 in the matter of Environmental and Consumer Protection Foundation vs. Delhi Administration and Others, has directed, in its order dated 3.10.2012 all States and Union Territories to provide, *inter-alia*, toilet facilities for boys and girls, if not already provided, within six months.

(d) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, 8.53 lakh toilet facilities have been sanctioned across the States/Union Territories for elementary schools. A total of 29,037 toilet blocks have been sanctioned under the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, in existing and upgraded secondary schools, apart from convergence with the scheme of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation where toilets have also been provided in existing schools in rural areas.

Fee hike in IITs

†75. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to increase the annual fees of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) by almost 80 per cent keeping in view increasing challenges in higher education;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it was necessary to effect this much increase in fee at one instance; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Based on the recommendations of the Group of Directors of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Standing Committee of the IIT Council, the Council of the IITs, in its 46th meeting,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.