

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:503
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2008
IMPROVEMENT OF SCIENCE EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS
Sai Shri Nand Kumar;Singh Shri Sugrib

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

- (a) whether the Government has introduced the centrally sponsored scheme "Improvement of Science Education in Schools;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;
- (c) the details of the proposals received from various States and the details of the proposals cleared during 2006-07 and 2007-08;
- (d) whether the Government has any mechanism to check the performance in science education of those States getting assistance from the Union Government;
- (e) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government for improvement of science education in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 503 FOR ANSWER ON 29.4.2008 ASKED BY SHRI SUGRIB SINGH AND SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI REGARDING "IMPROVEMENT OF SCIENCE EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS"

(a) & (b): To Improve the Quality of Science Education and to promote a scientific temper as envisaged in the National Policy on Education – 1986 as modified in 1992, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for 'Improvement of Science Education in Schools' was started from the year 1987-88. Under this scheme assistance was provided to the States/Union Territories for supply of science kits to upper primary Schools, setting up or up-gradation of science laboratories, library facilities in Secondary and Sr.Secondary Schools and training of Science and Mathematics teachers. Financial assistance was also provided to voluntary agencies for conducting experimental and innovative programmes in the field of Science Education.

(c): The erstwhile scheme of "Improvement of Science Education in Schools" which was one of the components of a composite scheme "Quality Improvement in Schools", has been transferred to the State Sector w.e.f. 1.4.2006. Therefore, no proposals were processed in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

(d) to (f): In 1995, NCERT conducted an evaluation study to assess the impact of this scheme on the development of a scientific climate in schools and improvement of quality of teaching learning in science and mathematics. The report showed that the Scheme was extremely useful and had enormous potential to generate a scientific climate in the schools. During the Xth Plan the scheme was made part of a composite Scheme of "Quality Improvement in Schools", with enhanced outlays. The scheme is at present in the State Sector.