

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1826
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010
REINVENTING SECONDARY EDUCATION
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a need for reinventing secondary education in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the modern communication technology can revolutionize secondary education;
- (d) if so, the initiatives taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether scrapping class X boards examination is the beginning of change and in Universities, we should move away from annual exams; and
- (f) if so, the extent to which these measures and changes have been initiated and the time by which they are likely to be introduced?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) and (b): During the 11th Five Year Plan, several new initiatives have been launched in the secondary education sector. A new centrally sponsored scheme, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), was launched in 2009 to universalize access to secondary education and to improve its quality, while ensuring equity. Other centrally sponsored schemes include model school, Girls' Hostel, incentive for girls to continue secondary education, and National Means cum Merit scholarship.

(c) and (d): Under the centrally sponsored scheme "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in School" which was launched in 2004 and which has been modified in 2010, financial assistance is provided to State Governments to provide ICT infrastructure and connectivity in Government and Government-aided secondary and higher secondary schools to ensure ICT-enabled teaching and to make the student learning more effective.

(e) and (f): Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has replaced the Class X Board examination with a strengthened form of school based assessment as well as summative assessment to reduce the emphasis on a single end term examination.

While universities enjoy autonomy in academic matters, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has circulated on 21-04-2009, an Action Plan for Academic and Administrative Reforms, which includes introduction of semester system by Universities, at post-graduate and under-graduate level. While most of the Central Universities and some of the States Universities have moved away from annual examinations in a phased manner, no definite time-frame in this regards can be indicated.