

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:117

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012

COMMON SYLLABUS

Dutt Smt. Priya Sunil;Singh Shri Ravneet

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

- (a) whether a common syllabus and common curriculum is required to achieve the objectives of the Right to Education Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the present status of the Government's commitment towards 'one nation, one syllabus, one exam' and 'core curriculum' concept for the 10th and 12th classes;
- (d) the time by which this plan is likely to be implemented;
- (e) whether various State Education Boards and other stakeholders have been consulted in this regard; and
- (f) if so, their response in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.117 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2012 ASKED BY SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT AND SHRI RAVNEET SINGH REGARDING COMMON SYLLABUS.

(a) and (b): Section 7(6) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act provides that the Central Government will develop a framework of national curriculum with the help of academic authority specified under section 29. The Central Government has notified the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) as the academic authority for developing the framework of national curriculum. The Central Government has clarified that the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005, developed by the NCERT, will be the framework of national curriculum till such time as the Central Government decides to develop a new framework.

Further, Section 29(1) of the RTE Act, 2009 provides that the Curriculum and Evaluation procedure for elementary education shall be laid down by an academic authority to be notified by the appropriate government. Section 29(2) of the RTE Act also provides that while laying down the curriculum and evaluation procedure the academic authority shall take into consideration the following:

- (a) Conformity with Constitutional values;
- (b) All round development of the child;
- (c) Building up the child's knowledge, potentiality and talent;
- (d) Development of physical and mental abilities to the fullest extent;
- (e) Learning through activities, discovery and exploration in a child friendly and child-centred manner;
- (f) The child's mother tongue serving 'as far as practicable' as the medium of instruction;
- (g) Making the child free of fear, trauma and anxiety and helping the child to express views freely and
- (h) Comprehensive and continuous evaluation of the child's understanding and knowledge and the ability to apply it.

Therefore the academic authorities notified by the appropriate Governments are required to develop their own curriculum and evaluation procedure for elementary education in keeping with the principles of section 29(2) of the RTE Act and the NCF 2005.

(c) to (f): The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) has endorsed the need for a core curriculum in Science and Mathematics

at Secondary level across all Educational Boards in the country, so as to provide a level playing field to all students to join professional courses.

In a meeting of the Council of Boards of Secondary Education (COBSE) on 16th February, 2010, 21 Boards unanimously decided to adopt core curriculum in Science and Mathematics at Senior Secondary level. Accordingly, NCERT has developed core syllabi in Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics at Higher Secondary stage in collaboration with COBSE and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). COBSE, in association with NCERT has undertaken a similar exercise for commerce stream.