

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:501
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2013
INCLUSION OF VARIOUS SUBJECTS IN SCHOOL CURRICULUM
Sugumar Shri K.

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

- (a) whether there has been a demand to include the teachings of saints and human rights in the school curriculum;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) to (c) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has received letters/representations from various organisations to include the teachings of certain saints and human rights subjects in the school curriculum. The social science textbooks developed by the NCERT from classes VI to XII encompass the teachings and seminal ideas of many great personalities, both men and women, including saints, philosophers, writers, thinkers and social reformers in appropriate contexts, keeping in view the guiding principles of the National Curriculum Framework, 2005.

The NCF, 2005 has also introduced the concept of "Human Rights" in school education. The textbooks in social sciences have integrated, in various chapters and through examples, a sense of respect for Human Rights. The NCERT has also prepared a syllabus of human rights for the higher secondary stage. The Schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) follow syllabi published by the NCERT. The Board has decided to offer an elective course on "Human Rights and Gender Studies" for classes XI-XII. This elective will be offered at a pilot stage for the CBSE affiliated schools in session 2013-14 and as a regular elective from session 2014-15 onwards.