GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4097 ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014 MORAL EDUCATION

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make moral education compulsory in the curriculum from nursery to university level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to devise appropriate syllabus on the subject in consultation with educationists and spiritual scholars of various religions in order to inculcate moral values in students in the country especially in Haryana?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Education is a subject on the Concurrent List of the Constitution and implementation of School Education lies primarily with the State Governments. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks prescribe themes and examples related to moral conduct across the subject areas and across the various stages of school education in the syllabi and textbooks for classes I - XII as a follow- up of the National Curriculum Framework- 2005. The NCERT has also brought out a Value Education Framework entitled "Education for values in schools - A framework" which provides guidelines to schools to identify their priorities of values and plan their actions accordingly. The NCERT has also developed a Resource Book for teachers 'Ways to Peace'.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has made values education compulsory in the curriculum offered to the schools affiliated to it. The CBSE has published source books for classes VI-VIII and a Teacher's Manual on Life Skills for Classes IX-X and also on Environmental Education and Adolescent Education which help to foster values in children. The CBSE has also introduced values based questions from the prescribed books in the Summative Assessment II in classes IX-X and in the final examination in classes XI-XII from the year 2012-13. The CBSE has also launched a values education kit comprising of a Hand Book for Teachers, Values Cards and a CD on songs on the theme of Duty, Solidarity and Respect for Nature.

All Universities being completely autonomous in academic matters are free to revise the syllabi and curricula. However, The University Grant Commission (UGC) is funding various programmes at the Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate levels concerning Human Rights and Values Education in the universities and colleges. The Commission has also been implementing the scheme of Human Rights and Values Education and provides financial assistance to the eligible Universities/Colleges under this scheme. The objectives of this scheme, inter-alia, include the creation of awareness and commitment to values where the individualistic self- interest is properly reconciled with the collective and common good.