GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5002
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2014
OPEN BOOK EXAM SYSTEM
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce `open book exam system` in CBSE and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether a case study based exam is also likely to be incorporated in the new system and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the aforesaid system is likely to increase the pressure on students of class X, class XII and those preparing for higher education and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any suggestions have been given by educationists to introduce this system right from class-I instead of introducing it from X, XI and XII classes and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the further action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) and (b): The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has introduced Open Text Based Assessment (OTBA) in Summative Assessment II of Class IX (in the subjects Hindi, English, Mathematics, Science Social Science) and final examination of Class XI (in the subjects Economics, Biology and Geography) from March, 2014 in which a component (15-20%) was based on the open text based assessment material supplied to students in advance. Open Text Based Assessment (OTBA) has taken a form of Open Case study-based approach in which questions of higher mental abilities were based on case studies related to the subject. The Question paper contains a separate section named Open Text Based Assessment with set of questions based on the Case Studies related to the subject.

(c): The CBSE introduced Open Text Based Assessment for classes IX and XI with the aims to take stress away from memory based assessments and to test higher order skills such as creating, analysing, synthesising, application, inferring and problem solving.

(d): The CBSE has not received any suggestion with regards to introduction of Open Book Exam System (OBES) from class-I onwards.

(e): Does not arise.