

scheme for creating the National Reconstruction Corps;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the main features of the scheme; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) As laid down in the National Agenda for Governance of the Government and based on the discussions held with State Governments, Representatives of Political Parties, Members of Parliament, Youth Organisations, etc., a scheme for the creation of a National Reconstruction Corps is under formulation.

(b) The scheme aims to provide an opportunity to youth in the age group of 18-35 to participate on a voluntary basis in various community based developmental programmes in areas, such as, agriculture and rural development, literacy, health, environmental protection, promotion of arts, sports and culture, etc.

(c) The scheme is proposed to be launched, on a pilot basis, on 12th January, 1999, the Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, also celebrated as National Youth Day.

[Translation]

Anganbadi Centres in Haryana

53. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are a few 'Anganbadi' centres in rural areas of Haryana particularly in Ambala;

(b) whether a proposal is under consideration of the Government to set up these centres during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these centres are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Change in Education Pattern/Curriculum

54. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :

DR. RAVI MALLU :

SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY :

SHRI A.C. JOS :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to review the existing education pattern from basic stage onwards and to change curriculum throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the State Governments have already carried out changes in the curriculum; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Development of curriculum is a continuing process as no curriculum can be static for a long time. With developments in different aspects of life at the national level as well as at the individual level, curriculum review becomes necessary at different intervals. Last major attempt in curriculum renewal was made as a result of the declaration of National Policy on Education (NPE) - 1986 and a large number of programmes/experiments were initiated in the wake of suggested changes.

One major programme at primary level was identification and implementation of minimum levels of learning which has met with varying degrees of success in different parts of the country over the past few years but its implementation also led to several points of concern. NCERT has been trying to get feed back on the implementation of various programmes through research studies interaction with the persons involved at various levels with curriculum development and its implementation in the country. In the same context of wider consultations, NCERT also held a National Conference in Oct., 1998.

(c) and (d) Some State Governments under different projects, especially DPEP have experimented on a small scale and made some modifications in their State curricula for primary stage. Such experiments provide inputs for the qualitative improvement of the curriculum which gradually can be adopted at the State level also but