

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON):** (a) and (b). Textbooks prescribed for school student are published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), Central Board of Secondary Education, State Boards of Secondary Education, State Government agencies as well as by private publishers. The pricing formulae of most of the Government and semi-Government organisations are reasonable. As regards the school textbooks published by the NCERT, the Government has been reviewing the price structure from time to time. NCERT publications are brought out on a 'No-profit No-loss basis'.

(c) In order that schools textbooks could be produced at reasonable prices, the Government has introduced a new scheme from 1987 under which white printing paper is supplied to the State Government and Union Territory Administrations at concessional rates through M/s Hindustan Paper Corporation, a Government of India Enterprise. Moreover, several States and Union Territories supply school textbooks free of cost to the students at the primary/upper primary stages, particularly to those belonging to the weaker sections of society.

#### **Promotion of Hindi Literature**

4072. SHRI HET RAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for selection of and subsidising the books published in Hindi literature with assistance of Government; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to make the Hindi literature books available to the common man at reasonable prices?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON):** (a) The Department of Education provides grants-in-aid under a scheme of publication assistance to individuals and organisations for producing and publishing books in Hindi literature. The criteria for selection of, and subsidising, the books are the following:

- Original writing on linguistic, literary (excluding fiction drama and poetry), Indological, social, Anthropological and cultural themes.
- The applicant for assistance shall not be a commercial publisher.
- The applicant should be copyright holder.
- The manuscripts should be considered to be of merit by experts.
- Estimated expenditure should be considered reasonable by agencies designated by the Government for evaluation.
- Grant of assistance should be approved by a Central Grants-in-aid Committee.

(b) Steps taken by Government to make Hindi literature book available to the common man at reasonable prices are:-

- Financial assistance is provided through the National Book Trust to publishers.
- The National Book Trust itself publishes books in Hindi under certain series: Bharat Desh Aur Log, Rashtriya Jivan Charit, Bhara-

tiya Lok-Sanskriti Aur Sahitya, Nehru Bal Pustakalaya, Aadan-Pradan, etc.

- The Sahitya Akademi publishes books in Hindi after selecting books as per recommendations of an advisory panel.
- Publication Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting brings out books in Hindi based on recommendations of an advisory committee and sells the same at reasonable prices through its Sales Emporia and Booksellers.

Wherever assistance is granted to individual or institutions including voluntary organisations by the Department of Education to bring out books, prices are fixed by the beneficiaries in consultation with the Department.

#### **Suicide By Scientists in Scientific Departments**

4074. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many scientists working in various scientific Departments have committed suicide on account of their frustration for not getting timely promotions in their respective grades;

(b) if so, the number of such cases for the last three years with the details of circumstances leading to taking such a steps by the scientists; and

(c) the concrete steps taken to remove frustration amongst scientists and to improve their lot?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOL-**

**OGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON):** (a) and (b). Government is not aware of any scientist having committed suicide in the major scientific departments such as Department of Science and Technology, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Biotechnology, Atomic Energy, Space, Ocean Development and Defence Research and Development Organisation during the last three years.

(c) Several measures/ programmes/ activities have been initiated to provide better and improved working conditions to scientists and technologist. As and when necessary, corrective measures have also been taken relating to personnel policies including promotions, pensions, scholarships, training opportunities etc. This is a continuing process.

#### **Directions to Monitor Programme on Public Representations**

4075. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue directions/guidelines to all Government departments to monitor progress every month on the representations/ petitions received from public; and government servants till the final disposal there of and to render reports to the Minister-in-charge; and

(b) if so the details thereof?

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):** (a) and (b). Under the existing instructions, the Ministries/Departments have designated Directors of Grievances who are required to monitor the disposal of representations/peti-