

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO.\*488  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL, 2018**

**Inflation of Marks by State Boards**

**\*488. SHRI OM BIRLA:  
SHRI V. ELUMALAI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government acknowledges that there has been inflation of marks by different State Boards as a result of which the institutions are facing problems in conducting various admission processes for universities and colleges and if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken by the Government to address the issue;
- (b) whether the Government has initiated any mechanism or directed the State Boards to stop inflating marks and come up with a uniform pattern of courses, exams and assessment for better assessment of students from all over the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Government is also open to the establishment of an authority for assessing the marks and bringing them in uniformity with national boards like CBSE, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)**

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.\*488 FOR ANSWER ON 02.04.2018 ASKED BY SHRI OM BIRLA AND SHRI V. ELUMALAI, MP, LOK SABHA REGARDING INFLATION OF MARKS BY STATE BOARDS**

(a) to (d) : A meeting to review the Policy of Moderation of marks to avoid spiking of marks was convened by the Secretary (School Education and Literacy) in Ministry of Human Resource Development on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 with State Education Secretaries and Chairman of State Education Boards and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). The following decisions in regard to moderation of marks for upward revision/spiking of marks were taken unanimously:

(i) All State Boards decided to stop awarding moderation of marks for upward revision/spiking of marks from the current year except Kerala Board and subject to amendment in the State regulations, if required. However, Kerala Board conveyed to do away with moderation from the next year.

(ii) All State Boards decided to continue with the policy of Grace Marks for lower level performance to improve the pass percentage but the policy should be placed on Board's web-site for transparency. It was also decided to show grace marks distinctly in the Marks Sheet.

All State Boards also decided to constitute an Inter Board Working Group (IBWG) comprising of Chairman, Board of Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Telengana, Chhattisgarh, Manipur, Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) with Chairman, CBSE as the Convener of the IBWG.

Subsequently, two meetings of the Inter-Board Working Group were held to deliberate upon the issue.

In the light of the outcomes of these high level meetings, it was decided to recommend implementation of the following by all School Education Boards:

- i. Practice of awarding moderation marks should be done away with, except in the cases of ambiguity in the question paper, inter-set variation in difficulty level (if multiple sets system exists in the Board) and vagaries in the evaluation process based on statistical analysis. Bunching of marks and their spiking should be completely avoided.
- ii. The practice of awarding grace marks should continue to pass the border line cases. The policy of grace marks should also be disclosed by all Boards on their websites.

- iii. The weightage of extra-curricular activities should be same across all the Boards. Boards should show performance of students in extra-curricular activities separately on the marks statement rather than adding them into their scholastic performance.
- iv. The moderation policy and quantum of moderation given, if any, should also be disclosed by all Boards on their websites on a year-to-year basis.

All the Educations Boards have been requested for implementation of the above decision in a transparent manner. The implementation of the above decision would help in bringing uniformity in evaluation process, parity of results and improve quality of Education with emphasis on learning outcomes.

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