

Government of Tripura
Directorate of Information and Cultural Affairs

S-1479

Agartala, 3rd September, 2019

Rejoinder

Reference : New item published in the local News Paper namely 'Tripura Observer on 28th August, 2019 under the Heading "State officers destroying education system in Tripura".

A news article has appeared on 28th August in Tripura Observer with title "State officers destroying education system in Tripura". The Directorate of Elementary Education and the office of State Project Director, Samgra Shiksha Bhawan unequivocally objects to the report and here by says that news item is factually incorrect and baseless and has been published without corroborating their information with the Directorate.

In a VC that was held on Tuesday with all District Education Officers and Inspector of Schools, the officials were briefed regarding the new system of centralized preparation and distribution of question papers for class III-IX in all schools under the Department. The entire operational guidelines were explained in detail to the officials and the same can be seen on the official website of the Department.

Under the new system the District Education Official have been appointed as District Controller of Examinations and IS have been appointed as Dy. Controller of examinations and their works and responsibilities have been clearly defined.

It is the first time that state has taken the initiative to have centralized designing of question papers and it is the first time that "**Scheme of Examinations**" has been formulated for all classes and the same has been approved by Council of Ministers. The "No Detention Policy" has also been modified and the Government has approved the detention of children for non performance in examination in class V and VIII with objective of ensuring accountability of the teaching staff and administration with respect to the learning levels of the students . The children who are detained in class V or VIII shall be given two months for taking re-examination in order to give them another opportunity. All these initiatives are being taken by the state Governments with the objective of ensure quality education at all levels in school education system.

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The Centralized examination will ensure that the examination pattern is same for all schools and will ensure equity. Since, the question papers are being designed by trained professionals, all students shall be marked on the same question set and the problem of having difference in difficulty levels will be eliminated. All the logistic arrangements have been made to ensure timely delivery of the question papers to each of the schools. All measures are being taken to ensure secrecy of the question papers. Also for the 1st time two sets of question papers are being distributed to prevent coping/cheating in exam hall.

Regarding the question papers checking, the same shall be carried out by the school teacher themselves and shall be recorded electronically in a centralized data base being prepared by the Department. This will ensure that performance of students can be monitored for each child and at the same time performance at block level, district level and state level shall be monitored. Regarding the allegation that NGO namely Pratham will scrutinize all the papers, it may be mentioned that no such decision has been taken.

As per the resolved decision and agreement Pratham Education Foundation , Mumbai

- 1) Will extend Support during Training of KRPs and other teachers
- 2) Will provide soft copies of Training Learning Materials
- 3) Will help in designing Monitoring & support plans with different members of supervising teams
- 4) Will participate in Review meetings (wherever available) and help in providing immediate solutions of the local problems

As part of the partnership in Tripura, Pratham Education Foundation , Mumbai will bear the salary cost of it's s personnel and help the state government in reinforcing systems, building monitoring and mentoring structures and developing training plans for government staff and teachers.

The state government will bear only the cost of travel (inter-city/state and local) and other logistics costs (Food & lodging) of Pratham staffs with material kits .

It is pertinent to be mentioned here that , Pratham Education Foundation Mumbai is not associated with examination process . No consultancy fees is also being provided to them.
