

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

New Delhi, September 07th, 2015

**UNION HRD MINISTER SMT SMRITI IRANI WELCOMES STEPS TAKEN BY CM
SHRI PRAKASH SINGH BADAL FOR OPENING MERITORIOUS SCHOOLS IN
PUNJAB**

**ANNOUNCES INITIATING EFFORTS TO REPLICATE THIS SUCCESSFUL
MODEL ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

VISITS MERITORIOUS SCHOOL AT BATHINDA

The Union Human Resource Development Minister Smt Smriti Irani, welcoming the steps taken by the Punjab Chief Minister Shri Parkash Singh Badal in setting up of meritorious schools in the State, announced at Bathinda (Bhatinda, Punjab) today that the Government of India would explore the feasibility of adopting this unique model in imparting quality school education at national level to benefit the economically poor but bright students.

Addressing the students after visiting Meritorious School at Bhatinda (Bathinda) in Punjab today, the Union Minister of HRD said that this model has shown the way to the Government of India for benefitting the poor but meritorious students adding that by opening such schools Shri Badal has created a history in the country. She urged the Chief Minister to send a team of experts to the Government of India so that their valuable advice could be incorporated in the New Education Policy to replicate this model at national level. This will help in benefitting poor but meritorious students across the country.

In his address the Chief Minister said that the state of Punjab was blessed with students who despite belonging to economically weaker strata of society were excellent in their studies. He said that the State Government had opened these meritorious schools with a sole aim to tap their enormous potential to full extent. The CM Shri Badal said that this model of schooling was the need of the hour to ensure that students from economically weaker sections were enormously benefitted.

The Chief Minister further said that realizing the unprecedented success of the 'Meritorious School' model in the state, the Punjab Government has recently approved the setting of three more such schools at Sangrur, Ferozepur and Gurdaspur districts at a cost of Rs. 30 crore each. He said that these schools would be established on the pattern of already existing seven such Meritorious Schools at SAS Nagar (Mohali), Patiala, Bathinda, Jalandhar, Amritsar, Ludhiana and Talwara (Hoshiarpur).

Earlier the Union HRD Minister Smt. Smriti Irani, the Union Food Processing Minister Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal and the Chief Minister Shri Badal, had detailed interactive session with the children of this meritorious school at Bathinda.

GG/DS