

**Quality of technical education**

\*557. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) was held in the month of December, 2007;

(b) whether the meeting was organized to consider ways to enhance access, equity, inclusiveness, affordability, relevance and quality of technical education in the country;

(c) what were the main decisions arrived at in the meeting;

(d) whether Government is making all possible efforts to take the quality of technical education to the next higher level and at par with the highest international standards, and

(d) whether any concrete steps and measures have been worked out?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIARJUN SINGH):  
(a) Yes, Sir. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) had organized a National Conference on Development of Technical Education in India in December, 2007.

(b) These issues were discussed in the said conference.

(c) The conference had no decision making role. However, some of the important suggestions made in the Conference pertained to quality assurance, assessment of manpower and skills requirement including expansion of polytechnics, academic reforms, faculty development, industry institute interface and role of AICTE in the changing environment and global competitiveness.

(d) and (e) The Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages several steps for improvement in the quality of technical education including the setting up of new IITs, IIMs, Schools of Planning and Architecture, and Indian Institutes of Information Technology etc., revamping of faculty development programmes, encouraging research and improvements in curricula, pedagogy, accreditation and evaluation system.

**Reservation for disabled in higher education**

\*558. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any specific reservation for physically challenged persons in higher educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the reservation is being complied with; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH):  
(a) to (d) In terms of the provisions of Section 39 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 all Government educational institutions and other educational institutions receiving aid from the Government shall reserve not less than 3 per cent seats for persons with disabilities. In addition, reservation