(c) and (d) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Act, 1987 empowers AICTE for proper maintenance of norms and standards in the technical edcuation system of the country. Therefore, the universities offering courses through distance mode in technical and professional education, are required to maintain the standards prescribed by AICTE.

Compilation of schemes of Ministry of HRD

*544. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has published any booklet/compilation of all the schemes of the Ministry, with the text of the schemes, as approved, alongwith the prescribed forms;

(b) if so, whether the publication is available in Government approved bookshops;

(c) whether they are available on websites also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Booklets have been published under different schemes from time to time and have been made available free of cost. The Annual Report of the Ministry also contains details of most of the schemes. However, it does not contain the prescribed forms. The details of the Annual Report containing various schemes administered by this Ministry are available on the Ministry's Website: *www.education.nic.in.*

HVDC line between India and Sri Lanka

*545. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering any proposal to lay an under-sea High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission line between India and Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what are the salient features thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering such power transmission projects with other neighbouring countries also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) A feasibility study is being proposed for establishing a High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission system of 1000 MW capacity using overhead and submarine cables between India and Sri Lanka. The system will have two HVDC terminal stations at both sides of the link. According to preliminary estimates, the length of the HVDC line may be approximately 350-400 kms. This would consist of about 200-250 kms overhead HVDC line in India and between 30 to 50 kms undersea cables and finally about 125-150 kms of overhead line in Sri Lanka. The study would facilitate estimation of capital cost based on route survey and would also examine the techno-economic feasibility of the interconnection.

(c) and (d) India is already having cross-border AC transmission links with Bhutan and Nepal. Further interconnection with Bhutan is proposed with Punatsanghchu-I HEP in Bhutan. Existing transmission lines between India and Nepal are at 132 kV and below and are operated in radial mode. A 400 kV D/C transmission line between Muzaffarpur (India) and Dhalkebar (Nepal) interconnection through a joint venture of ILFS, Nepal Electricity Authority, PTC India Limited and Powergrid is also under consideration.