

(c) whether any time-limit has been prescribed to open inter-university centre and its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Suitability of college graduates for employment**

2846. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 10 to 25 per cent of college graduates are suitable for employment and 9 per cent of graduates of the country are unfit for employment, as per survey conducted by the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the present higher education system is merely increasing the number of degree holders and not professionals;

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to check out any action plan to make higher education employment oriented; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Government's attention has been drawn to a study by a non-official Consultancy Organization, which has been quoted by a publication of the World Bank on "Strengthening Skills and Education for Innovation". According to the study, only 10-25 per cent of "general college graduates in India are suitable for employment". The reason given by the study is that links with industry are low in most educational institutions, leading to curricula that allegedly do not reflect modern technological development or include industrial practices. However, such a conclusion cannot be used for generalizing preference for professional education over general higher education, because both general Higher Education and professional Education are significant contributors to the development of human resource for any society. Relevance of Higher Education is a continuous process. The expansion of Higher Education approved by the National Development Council (NDC) under the Eleventh Plan through substantial increase in allocation and setting up of new IITs, IIMs, Central Universities and other institutions illustrates a balanced growth of Higher Education. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has redesigned its Vocational Education Programme since 2003-04 and the new Career Orientation Programme of the UGC, supplements relevant knowledge, skills and aptitude for gainful employment and self-employment to students pursuing the conventional undergraduate degree curriculum.

#### **Fee of IITs**

2847. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to increase the fee of Indian Institutes of Technology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for fee increase by IITs when they are fully funded by the Union Government;
- (d) whether Government proposes to agree to the proposal of IITs, in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The Standing Committee of the IIT Council (SCIC) in its meeting held on 11.02.2008, have recommended for revision of tuition fee for B.Tech. and M.Tech. courses in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) as follows:

B.Tech. — Rs. 25,000 per semester, *i.e.* Rs. 50,000 per year.

M.Tech. — Rs. 25,000 per semester, *i.e.* Rs. 50,000 per year (with a fee waiver of Rs. 20,000 per semester for non sponsored candidates)

Fee structure of the IITs has remained static over a considerable period of time and is subsidized as compared to the cost of education in these Institutes. However, it has been specifically emphasized that in no case the increase in fees would have any adverse impact on the weaker sections of students.

#### Mark evaluation system of JEE

2848. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Institute of Technology has furnished different versions of marks evaluation to Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) candidates which resulted in deprivation of admission in IITs to deserving candidates;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the concerned IITs for creating mess in this regard;

(d) whether Government proposes to simplify the exam procedure and marks awarding system of JEE, so as to benefit all the stratas of society; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Government has already simplified the exam procedure from Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) 2006 onwards. Entrance Examination has been reduced from two Stages to single stage consisting of two objective type question papers each of three hours' duration and each consisting of separate sections in physics, chemistry and mathematics.