

- (a) whether the Right to Education Bill which was introduced long back has not been passed, so far;
- (b) if so, what are the main reasons for the delay;
- (c) whether any objections have been raised by various parties; and
- (d) if so, by when a final decision for passing the Bill in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2008, to put into effect the Fundamental Right to free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years has not yet been introduced in the Parliament.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

New institutes for higher education

†1423. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that an approval to-start new institutes to impart higher technical education in the country is pending with the All India Council for Technical Education for consideration;
- (b) if so, the total number of institutes from which applications were received for consideration till September, 2008;
- (c) the number of institutes to which approval was given by the Council in the year 2006 and 2007; and
- (d) by when the applications, presently under consideration, are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) As per information furnished by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), 1970 applications have been received by AICTE for establishment of new technical institutions for the block period 2008-11. Out of these, 1206 institutions have been approved up to 31.08.2008. The applications for approval are received round the year. Applications received by 31st December in a particular year are disposed off by 30th June of the subsequent year. Applications received after 31st December are disposed of in the next academic year as and when the requisite norms are met. 336 new institutions were given approval for the year 2006-2007 and 635 new institutions were given approval for the year 2007-2008.

Reservation in private educational institutions

1424. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering reservation for OBCs in private educational institutions;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government is considering uniform quota in IIT faculties; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There is no Central law / regulation at present for reservation of seats in unaided private professional institutions.

(b) and (c) The Government have issued letter dated 09.06.2008 to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) asking for implementation of 15%, 7½% and 27% reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs respectively for recruitment to the posts of Assistant Professors and Lecturers in Science and Technology subjects and in all faculty posts for subjects other than Science and Technology.

Means-cum-merit scholarship

1425. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has approved a means-cum-merit scholarship of Rs.6000 per year, to prevent economically weak but meritorious students from dropping out of school;

(b) if so, whether the Finance Minister has approved that each year, at least one lakh scholarships of Rs.6000 per annum would be awarded to students from class IX to XII;

(c) whether only students whose parental income from all sources is not more than Rs.1.5 lakh per annum, would be eligible for scholarship;

(d) whether scheme was announced in 2007-08's budget and Rs.750 crore was allocated and a similar amount was allocated in this year's budget; and

(e) if so, to what extent the amount allocated so far has been provided to needy students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme to award one lakh scholarships of Rs.6000 per annum every year was announced by the Finance Minister in his budget speech in 2007.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The scheme was announced in the budget speech in 2007, but no amount had been allocated in the budget for the year 2007-08. No amount was originally allocated in the budget for 2008-09, but a supplementary provision of Rs.761.54 crore has since been made.

(e) No amount has been released to students, as Rs.750 crore out of the amount provided as supplementary grant is meant to create a corpus, and the interest earned is to be used towards scholarships.

Use of Hindi

1426. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: