THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The number of persons made literate during the last five years is as follows:

Year	No. of persons made Literate (in lakhs)
2002-03	61.33
2003-04	79.45
2004-05	39.74
2005-06	42.93
2006-07	23.04

(e) Does not arise.

Seats reserved for SCs and STs

1444.SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a number of seats reserved for SC/ST students are not yet filled in IITs and other universities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when Government is going to fill up all the reserved seats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Candidates belonging to SC/ST categories are admitted on the basis of relaxed criteria as compared to General category candidates. In the event of the reserved seats remaining unfilled, IIT candidates are admitted to one-year Preparatory Course on further relaxation of qualifying criteria. Due to infrastructural constraints, no preparatory course admission could be made in the six new IITs in 2008-09. Similarly, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has a special scheme, namely, Remedial Coaching for SC/ST students to improve their academic skills and linguistic proficiency and to raise the level of comprehension of basic subjects so as to provide them a stronger foundation for further academic work.

Special mid-day meals in backward areas

1445.MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn up plans for special mid-day meals during summer vacations in primary schools in most backward areas, where drought situation might develop, if monsoon fails;

(b) if so, the details thereof, *inter alia*, indicating the pockets in Orissa and Jharkhand where such arrangements are proposed to be made; and