

- (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:

(a) whether Government is still keen on developing Hindi as the national language of the country to be used as a medium of instruction and as an official language in the Centre and States; and

(b) if so, what are the efforts being made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Under the provision of Article - 343, Hindi has been granted the status of Official Language of the Union. Accordingly, the Government is propagating the use of Official Language Hindi in the Government Offices/Public Sector Undertakings and Banks of the Union Government.

The National Policy on Education, 1986 provides for development of Hindi as the link language. The Policy provides for three language formula with regard to teaching of languages in schools. NPE - 1986 states that "at the secondary stage, the State Govt. should adopt, and vigorously implement, the three-language formula which includes the study of a modern Indian language, preferably one of southern languages, apart from Hindi and English in the Hindi speaking States, and of Hindi along with the regional language and English in the Non-Hindi speaking States".

Central Hindi Directorate, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan and Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology are implementing a number of schemes for the Development of Hindi Language.

Percentage of GDP for education

1427.SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government is going to earmark six per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on education and its infrastructure development;

(b) by when Government is going to enact a law for universalisation of education; and

(c) why Government has reduced Central outlay for universal education from 50 per cent to 35 per cent, inspite of objection from the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Government has accorded very high importance to the education sector during the XI Plan period and Eleventh Five Year Plan allocation of Rs.2,69,873 crore provided to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Rs. 1,84,930 crore for the Department of School Education & Literacy and Rs.84,943 crore for Department of Higher Education), constitutes 19.4% of the total XI Plan allocation, as compared to 7.7% in the X Five Year Plan. This substantial increase in central plan outlay for education represent a very substantial effort on the part of the Central Government towards raising public spending on education towards the goal of 6% of GDP. Overall progress towards this goal, would however, also depend on the efforts made by the State Governments.

(b) There is no proposal to enact a law to universalise education.

(c) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme approved in 2000-01 had envisaged a funding pattern of 50:50 between Central and State Governments at the onset of XI Plan period.