

Promotion of higher education in tribal areas

192. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any policy has been formulated to promote higher education in tribal areas; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and how many students would be benefited from the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The thrust of the policy underlying the XIth Plan for Higher Education is on increasing access to quality higher education while ensuring equity. A new Scheme for Reduction in Regional Imbalances, Social Gaps and Promotion of Inclusiveness in Higher Education has been introduced by the University Grants Commission in the XI Plan, which will serve the tribal areas as well. Central Universities have been established in all the States in the North-Eastern Region including in States with predominately tribal population. In addition, during the XI Plan a Central University will be established in each of those States where there is no Central University. 374 new colleges are proposed to be established one in each district where the Gross Enrolment Ratio is lower than the national average. A scheme has also been drawn up to provide grants on a sharing basis to the universities and colleges which are not eligible for central assistance under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 including those located in tribal areas. There are also schemes for scholarships for Scheduled Tribe students and construction of girls' hostels in Colleges and Universities serving areas of low access to higher education.

In addition, the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University has been established, with its headquarters at Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh, to provide avenues of higher education and research facilities primarily for the tribal population of the country. The University is empowered to open such number of Regional Centres and Campuses in tribal areas as the University may deem fit.

Regulation of foreign universities

193. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any policy has been formulated to regulate the entry of foreign universities and to maintain the standard of education imparted by the foreign universities;
- (b) whether the degrees issued by the foreign universities are sub-standard; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken to check exploitation of students by foreign universities, particularly in the fields of medicine and engineering?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) At present, only the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has framed regulations, in the field of technical education, for entry and