

in the annual examinations, can't be adopted in the institutes of higher learning particularly the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs);

(b) whether as per the present trend in IITs most of the SC and ST students are suffering a lot on the ground that their performance are not up to the mark;

(c) if so, whether any IIT has taken any action so far against their teachers in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There is no parameter set up in Higher Education, including Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), for taking action against teachers if their students do not perform well in annual examinations.

(b) to (d) It is not correct to say that most of the Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribes (ST) students are suffering on the ground that their performance is not upto the mark. For SC / ST students, who perform poorly, special efforts are made to help them through guidance and counseling. Separate cells to assist the students from weaker sections are available to solve their day to day problems.

Introduction of new course on renewable energy

357. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would introduce new courses on renewable energy in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and in Central varsities since our country's solar industries needs a large number of trained and skilled human resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Central Universities, being autonomous institutions, are empowered to introduce various branches of learning in their curricula from time to time. Some Central Universities and IITs have been conducting various courses / programmes on conventional and non-conventional energy, including renewable energy.

Second report of Knowledge Commission

†368. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Knowledge Commission has stated the need to make comprehensive change in structure of higher education institutes in their second report;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.