

[18 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

(d) if so, to what extent this drive would help to bring the above districts out of 'lowest literacy' tag?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) 150 districts of the country, which have the lowest literacy rates as per 2001 Census, have been identified for taking up a Special Literacy Drive for the residual illiterates in 15 to 35 age group. The following eight districts of Andhra Pradesh have also been included in the low literacy districts for special intervention:

1. Mahboobnagar
2. Vizianagaram
3. Medak
4. Adilabad
5. Kurnool
6. Karimnagar
7. Srikakulam
8. Nizamabad

(c) and (d) The Government of India has sanctioned a project for eradication of residual illiteracy in all the eight special literacy drive districts. According to the information received from the State Government 17.88 lakh persons have been enrolled under this programme. Concerted efforts are being made through various literacy programmes to raise the literacy levels in these districts.

Caste-specific UGC schemes

*366. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UGC has launched, formulated, announced numerous caste-specific fellowships, scholarships, grants, financial aid, subsidies for individual scholars and students and teachers in the fiscal year 2006-07;

(b) the tabulated figures, numbers, categories and other details for such schemes of UGC related to caste-specific people in 2006-07;

(c) to what extent caste-specific bonanzas will hurt minorities and their educational aspirations; and

(d) the steps proposed to study the long term impact of excluding minorities from recent caste-specific bonanzas of UGC?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC) the UGC has announced during the current financial year 2006-07, the following two schemes for educational upliftment of the socially deprived students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(i) Post Doctoral Fellowship for SC/ST candidates

(ii) Post Graduate (PG) scholarships for Professional courses for SC/ST candidates.

There are 100 slots per year under the Post-Doctoral Fellowship scheme for undertaking advanced studies and research, in Science, Engineering and Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences in Universities/ Institutions / Colleges.

1000 PG scholarships are to be given to the students doing M.B.A., M. Pharma. and M. Tech.

(c) The above mentioned schemes for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, do not come in the way of educational aspirations of the minorities.

(d) Does not arise.

Privatization of power distribution

*367. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after four years of power privatization, Government have not been able to produce desired results in the Capital and the menace of inflated bills and fast running meters are persisting;

(b) whether it is also a fact that administration is not at all prepared to take into account consumers' points of view;