

Education is low compared to several other countries and there is a need to expand the intake capacity in Higher Education to raise our GER. The strategy being followed is to expand capacity as well as increase opportunities of access to all sections of the society, while maintaining standards. Expansion of capacity in higher education is a joint effort of the State Governments and the Central Government. The Eleventh Five Year Plan outlay on Higher Education is nearly 10 times of the actual expenditure under the Tenth Five Year Plan with such priorities as are going to significantly increase the access to higher education along with equity and excellence in our universities and colleges. 15 new Central Universities (including the conversion of three State Universities into Central Universities) have been established with effect from 15.1.2009 in hitherto uncovered States. 14 Universities aiming at world class standards are proposed to be set up in phases. A new scheme for assisting the State Universities/State Governments for establishing a model college in each of the 374 districts which have a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) lower than the national level, is under consideration. Eight new IITs in the country have been set up. A proposal to set up Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode is under consideration in the Ministry of Human Resource Development during Eleventh Five Year Plan. Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages establishment of eight IIMs in the country. A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely "National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology" has been launched by the Government to leverage the potential of ICT, in teaching and learning process.

Use of mother tongue in imparting instructions to children

1897. SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the policy of the Central Government regarding imparting instruction in the mother tongue of the children, called as home language of the children in Yashpal Committee Report from primary, 1st standard to 4th standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): National Curriculum Framework, 2005 recommends that mother tongue or home language of children should be the medium of instruction at schools and if a school does not have provision for teaching in the child's home language(s) at the higher levels, primary school education should be covered through the home language(s).

Regulation on seats in higher education

1898. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the numbers of graduates and post graduates passing out every year are far in excess as compared to employment opportunities available per annum;

(b) if so, whether Government has assessed the annual requirement in various disciplines over next 10-15 years and regulate the number of seats for admission in various colleges, institutes and universities accordingly;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) While higher education does have a linkage to employment opportunities, the essence of education goes beyond to the wide vision of growing knowledge through research, including values and bringing forth informed citizens. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has not commissioned any study to relate the output of higher education to the employment opportunities in the country.

Universalisation of Secondary Education

†1899. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is working on a plan for universalisation of Secondary Education;

(b) if so, by when this scheme will be ready;

(c) the total yearly expenditure proposed to be incurred on this scheme;

(d) the funding pattern of the scheme; and

(e) whether the Union Government will bear the entire cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The new centrally sponsored scheme called "Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan" is meant to universalize access to secondary education and to improve its quality. The scheme has already been launched in March, 2009.

(c) The allocation for the scheme for the Eleventh Five Year Plan is Rs. 20,120 crore. A provision of Rs. 1353.98 crore has been made in 2009-10 for this scheme.

(d) and (e) The sharing pattern between the centre and the states, for both recurring and non-recurring cost, during the Eleventh Five Year Plan is 75:25, while for the north-eastern states, the ratio is 90:10.

Committee on Higher Education

1900. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high-level committee on 'Renovation and Rejuvenation' of Higher Education submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, whether Government has accepted the recommendations of the committee; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.