

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;