

- (a) the number of Central Universities established to provide opportunities to common citizens;
- (b) the number of Central Universities to be established in future;
- (c) whether there is any plan to establish more Central Universities for the purpose of developing HRD in the country;
- (d) the steps taken by his Ministry for improvement of modern education system;
- (e) whether there is any planning to establish modern educational system like technical, management, engineering colleges etc., in North East which will provide direct job opportunities to students;
- (f) whether due to absence of schools there are lots of people who are still illiterate; and
- (g) if so, the reasons for not establishing enough schools in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Under the purview of this Ministry, as on date, there are 39 Central Universities established in all States, except Goa. During the remaining period of the XIth Plan, there is no proposal to establish any new Central University. The Central Government, however, proposes to establish 14 National Universities, aiming to achieve world-class standards, in identified cities so as to augment qualified human resource in the country.

(d) With a view to improving the education system, the Government has initiated academic reforms which enjoin upon the academic institutions to undertake, *inter-alia*, periodic revision of curriculum, admission procedures, examination reforms (including internal assessment), semester system, choice-based credit system.

(e) to (g) To increase the employability of students of the North-East region, the Government proposes to establish two Indian Institutes of Information Technology in Dimapur and Shillong, besides establishment of new polytechnics in the sixty-six districts of N.E. Region. Further, there is a proposal to set-up National Institutes of Technology (NIT) in such States of the region as do not have any NIT. An Indian Institute of Management has been established in Shillong recently. Each Central University (other than that in Sikkim) has been assisted to start faculties of engineering and management. School level education is also being strengthened, where required, to ensure adequate catchment for Central Universities.

Performance of SC and ST students in IITs

366. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the parameter set by the higher authorities of the Education Department for taking action against a teacher stopping his/her promotion or increment if their students don't perform well

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

367. 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 universities 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.