

Validity of degrees by open universities

3435. DR. JANARADHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the opinion expressed by a Supreme Court Bench that the degrees given by open universities, especially private universities are not equivalent to the degrees given by the regular universities; and

(b) if so, what would be the fate of the students getting their degrees from open and private universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) It has not come, specifically, to the notice of this Ministry that Hon'ble Supreme Court has expressed opinion that the degrees given by open universities, especially private universities, are not equivalent to the degrees given by the regular universities. However, it is learnt that Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeals No. 2252 of 2006 and 4173 of 2008 has *inter-alia* opined that Master's degrees awarded by Annamalai University through distance mode, to the students, who were not holding basic graduation degree, cannot be considered as valid for the purpose of academic pursuit and employment respectively.

Functioning of KGBVs

3436. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of students in KGBVs, State-wise;

(c) the number of minority students enrolled in KGBVs, State-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that ratio of minority girl students is very low in these KGBVs; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Government of India has sanctioned 2573 KGBVs in the country. A State-wise list of KGBVs and girls enrolled therein including minority girls is given the Statement (See below).

(d) and (e) 479 KGBVs are set up in minority concentration blocks having a 25% minority population. The enrolment of minority girls in the KGBVs in these blocks is 24.5%.