

including eligibility criteria, the required documentation and the procedure for interested parties to approach the Commission for seeking permission to set up and operate power exchange.

(g) It will not be mandatory for any person, including the State distribution agencies, to purchase power from these power exchanges.

Action plan on infrastructure of IITs

***190. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the action plans of Government to increase infrastructure, especially in IITs in view of Government's keenness in extending quota to OBCs;

(b) whether it is a fact that the student teacher ratio in all IITs is less than 1:12 against the ideal ratio set by Government as 1:9 and 1:6 in foreign countries; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken to recruit and attract more teachers to meet the minimum required strength?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) As per the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006, Indian Institutes of Technology have to provide 27% reservation in admission to students belonging to the other backward classes, in addition to the already existing reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students, over a maximum period of three years beginning with the academic session 2007-08. While doing so the Institutes will have to ensure that the total number of seats available to the General Category students is maintained at the level of such seats available during the academic session 2006-07. The Institutes will, therefore, have to increase their intake capacity. Government is committed to provide adequate funds to increase infrastructure on account of increase in the intake capacity of students. Rs. 988 crores have been proposed in the budget estimates 2007-08 for capacity expansion of IITs.

(b) Standing Committee of IIT Council (SCIC) has laid down the faculty student ratio in IIT's as 1:9. At present the faculty student ratio in some of the IIT's is less than 1:12.

(c) The Indian Institutions of Technology (IITs) are autonomous institutions and recruitment of faculty is done by them as per their respective Statutes and not by the Government. Recruitment of faculty is a continuous process and all out efforts are made by the Institutes to fill up the vacant posts. A rigorous recruitment procedure is followed by the IITs to recruit competent faculty with strong academic background. IITs have been employing suitable strategies to attract and retain their quality faculty members which include providing of good residential accommodation, good medical facilities, initial research grant and suitable schemes for sharing of consultancy charges. IITs have also increased their intake of Ph.D. Programme with a view to make available increased number of eligible persons to take up faculty positions.

FDI in higher education

***191. SHRI DEVDAS APTE:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accepted the proposal to open FDI in higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to open more higher educational institutions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) By virtue of Press Note 2 (200 Series) dated the 11th February, 2000 of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government has allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% on the automatic route in the Education Sector subject to sectoral rules/regulations as may be applicable. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) already has regulations in place for the entry and operation by the Foreign Educational Institutions in the education field falling within the purview of AICTE.

(c) Expansion of capacity in higher education has to be a joint ongoing effort of the State Governments and the Central Government. The budgetary provision for higher education including technical education has been substantially increased since 2004-05 by the Central Government resulting in the creation of new Central Universities and other higher education institutions.