

The Central Government has in the last three years significantly enhanced the budgetary allocations to State Governments as part of its commitment towards universalisation of elementary education.

Amendments in MMDR Act

†*292. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make amendment in the schedule of Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act (MMDR Act), 1957 on the basis of recommendations made by Hoda Committee;

(b) whether this will not encourage the monopolistic tendencies; and

(c) whether this will not affect the system of taking decision by the State Governments on their own and their autonomy?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c) New Mineral Policy on the subject is under consideration of the Government. State Governments are the owners of the minerals and grant mineral concessions. Prior approval of the Central Government is required only for grant of mineral concessions in respect of minerals mentioned in the First Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957.

Setting up of additional IISERs

*293. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up more Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) in addition to Pune and Kolkata;

(b) the number of IISERs proposed to be set up in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) by when these new IISERs will be set up and commence their activities;

(d) whether Government plan to set up an IISER in Gujarat soon;

(e) if so, the details in this regard; and

(f) the criteria for setting up an IISER in the country?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[19 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (f) Three Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have already been set up by the Government at Pune, Kolkata and Mohali and the academic sessions have already commenced in the academic year 2006-07 at the IISERs at Pune and Kolkata. The Government has decided to set up two more IISERs in the country during the 11th Five Year Plan. These will be located at Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram. The decision to locate the IISERs at Pune, Kolkata, Mohali, Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram is based on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM). At present, the Government has no plan to set up an IISER in Gujarat.

Committee to review NCERT textbooks

*294. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

(a) whether, battling with the controversy over NCERT textbooks, his Ministry have decided to set up a committee under former UGC Chairman to go into the contents of these books;

(b) if so, the main aims/objectives of this committee;

(c) by when this committee is likely to submit its report; and

(d) if the report has been submitted, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) In the light of certain objections raised regarding the contents of the Hindi textbooks published by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal was constituted on 30.8.2006 to review these textbooks. The terms of reference of the Committee were;

(i) to review the relevant Hindi textbooks in the light of the objections raised;

(ii) to recommend any improvements or revisions that may be considered necessary;