

(a) whether University Grants Commission (UGC) has been funding some universities found unworthy by his Ministry's expert panel;

(b) if so, the facts and the details thereof;

(c) whether Government/UGC proposes to review the norms for funding various universities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) University Grants Commission (UGC) has been funding eligible institutions, including institutions deemed to be universities in the present Plan. Two of these institutions, funded by the UGC, have been found unfit to continue as such by the Review Committee, constituted by the Government to review the existing institutions deemed to be universities. However, the matter is currently sub judice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in *Viplav Sharma vs. Union of India* [WP(C) No. 142 of 2006].

(c) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Promotion of higher education for poor

1762. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that students belonging to poor, marginal and weaker sections of society are deprived of opportunity, accessibility and affordability of higher education; and

(b) if so, whether Government is exploring ways and means such as scholarships, free hostel accommodation, loans at low interest, etc. for such students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) A Central Sector Scheme has been approved by Government to provide interest subsidy for the period of moratorium on the educational loans taken by students from economically weaker sections with parental income upper limit of Rs.4.5 lakh per annum, from scheduled banks under the Educational Loan Scheme of the Indian Banks' Association, for pursuing recognised professional/technical courses in India. The scheme is available on the Ministry's website www.education.nic.in.

Quality of education in rural areas

†1763. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.