

(c) whether it is a fact that thousands of students could not take tests in the online system; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per information made available by Convener, CAT 2009, out of about 2,42,000 registered candidates, a few thousand candidates could not take the test at the first instance due to technical glitches. However, all such affected candidates were rescheduled for the test either in the first or the second phase of CAT, 2009.

Diploma courses in second shift in engineering colleges

2394. SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has taken a decision to introduce diploma education as second shift in the existing engineering colleges;

(b) if so, whether under this scheme some colleges in Andhra Pradesh have applied to start the diploma courses;

(c) if so, whether approval has been given; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir. As per information given by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the New Approval Process Handbook of AICTE provides that the technical institutions from which at least one batch has graduated be allowed to start second shift in such programmes.

(b) to (d) The AICTE has invited applications from institutions throughout the country, including Andhra Pradesh, for various kinds of approvals including introduction of second shift. The applications are required to be processed in accordance with the provisions of the Approval Process Handbook.

Private universities

†2395. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of private universities in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that their number has increased suddenly and the private universities in States established during the last six months are those whose representations regarding deemed university status are pending with his Ministry; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.