

Jodhpur city to be suitable for setting up of an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) there.

(c) IIT-Rajasthan had commenced functioning from the academic year 2008-09 from the campus of IIT-Kanpur.

(d) Does not arise.

Opening of education sector to foreign universities

2381. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rationale of opening up the education sector to foreign universities is done mainly to stem the exodus of Indian students to such universities;

(b) if so, whether Government has referred this to Parliamentary Standing Committee to study and lay down a system of rules and procedures for the functioning of foreign universities;

(c) whether Government has decided to adopt a blend of Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Private Finance Initiative (PFI) in addressing the demands and challenges of higher technical education in the country; and

(d) if so, by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. A large number of foreign educational institutions are reportedly operating in the country. In the absence of any Regulatory framework, the details of such institutes are not known. It has been considered necessary to put in place a legal framework to facilitate the entry of reputed foreign educational institutions, while preventing the entry of those of dubious quality. Such legislation while preventing entry and operation of sub-standard institutions would provide Indian Students access to innovative areas of studies, enhanced research opportunities, increase in enrolment, and attracting foreign investments to achieve the targeted Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education.

A legislative proposal for regulating the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions in India has been approved by the Government and it is proposed to introduce the bill to this effect in the Parliament.

(c) and (d) There is no bar on private, "not-for-profit" investments in higher education. There are as many as 130 institutions declared by Central Government as deemed to be universities on the recommendations of the University Grants Commission (UGC), of which 92 are sponsored by private "not-for-profit" trusts and societies. Parliaments as well as State Legislatures are competent to establish universities with or without public expenditure or even on public-private partnership. At present, universities funded by private sponsors have been established only by State Legislations.