

to themselves; they have also been advised not to travel alone as far as possible and to take other basic precautions for their own safety and security. The Government of India has given similar advice to Indian students studying in Australia and the same has also been placed on the website of the High Commission of India in Australia.

Legislation for entry of foreign universities

2368. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

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

- (a) whether Government is considering to bring a legislation which will allow foreign universities in higher education of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of justifications behind this kind of legislation to permit foreign universities in the country; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that this bill has been opposed by different quarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) 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 a Bill to this effect in Parliament. 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 having 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. As the Bill is proposed to be introduced, the entire spectrum of views would be examined appropriately.

Recognition of degrees of Open Universities

2369. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that many State Governments are not recognizing the degrees awarded by Open Universities recognized by U.G.C. in their States;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases reported to Government;