

and higher education centres in rural areas. However, the Government has approved the introduction of a new scheme to provide central assistance for setting up of a model degree college in each of the identified 374 educational backward districts where Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for higher education is less than the national GER. During the remaining period of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, provision exists for establishing 200 model colleges in identified districts, with priority being given to special category States and districts having concentration of weaker sections and minorities as well as other districts in Schedule V and Schedule VI areas.

Integrated Education for Disabled Children

†2392. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government while discontinuing the Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) Scheme has advised State Governments to use the services of trained teachers under IEDC in the inclusive education component of the SSA;

(b) if so, the details of the same; and

(c) the details of trained teachers under IEDC absorbed in the inclusive education component of the SSA since June 2009, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Scheme of Inclusive Education for the Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) aims at enabling all children with disabilities, who have completed eight years of schooling, to have access to secondary education and improve their enrolment, retention and achievement in the general education system. The IEDSS lays down qualification for the appointment of special teachers. Teachers who do not fulfill these qualifications are not eligible to handle disabled children at the secondary stage.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Resource Teachers are engaged at the block level to provide specialized support to children with special needs as per proposals formulated by the State Government in the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) for SSA. SSA does not have provision for absorption of teachers under the erstwhile IEDC Scheme.

Online admission test for IIMs

2393. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a couple of IIMs are in favour of scrapping online admission test;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(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.