

(d) Section 12 of the RTE Act provides that Unaided schools shall admit in class I to the extent of at least 25 per cent of the strength of that class, children belonging to the weaker sections and disadvantaged groups in the neighborhood school and provide free and compulsory elementary education till its completion.

**Guidelines for quality of education in foreign university centres**

†3134. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to allow establishment of foreign university in private sector in the country;

(b) if so, whether any guidelines have been set by Government for quality of education and fixation of tuition fees;

(c) if so, the details of guidelines; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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 for introduction and a notice thereof has been sent to Parliament. Provisions of the Bill can take effect only subject to approval by Parliament.

**IGNOU's computer programmes for rural population**

3135. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether IGNOU has proposed to launch five computer programmes that would deliver international skill development vocational courses to the rural population at an affordable cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the courses would help to bridge the educational gap between rural and urban population by making computer education available to villages at their door steps; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) As per the information furnished by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the university offers some programmes, which are of value to learners in rural areas who have different basic qualifications. The programmes include Certificate in Information Technology (CIT), Digital Literacy Programme (DLP), Diploma Programme on PC Hardware and Networking

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

through its wide network of study centres in the country. University envisages that all these courses help in the reduction of the digital divide in the rural areas. Full programme details and course contents are available on the university's website at [http://iocg.ignou.ac.in/wiki/index.php/CIT:Certificate\\_in\\_Information\\_Technology](http://iocg.ignou.ac.in/wiki/index.php/CIT:Certificate_in_Information_Technology).

#### **Effect of CAT examinations**

3136. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that this year onwards CAT exams will be held only on computers;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that candidates in semi-urban and rural areas will be less privileged due to introduction of computer as a mode of test; and
- (d) if so, the steps Government is taking to safeguard the interests of candidates belonging to rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The decision about the continuation or otherwise of the computerized test is taken by the Director's Forum of Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).

(c) No, Sir. The computer based test does not require computer knowledge. It merely requires familiarity with the keyboard. As per information available, no complaint has been received from the candidates about the inaccessibility of Computerized CAT Centres. Computer Based Test was conducted in all Centres where "pencil paper" tests were conducted earlier. In fact, more Centres were added to facilitate the Computer Based Test.

- (d) Does not arise.

#### **High drop out rate in Bihar**

3137. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that drop out rate at the primary level is very high in Bihar as compared to National average;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for this drop out rate; and
- (d) the steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) During the year 2007-08, the drop out rate (Provisional) at primary (Classes I-V) level in Bihar is 46.89 per cent as compared to the national average of 25.55 per cent.

- (c) The socio-economic and school related factors affect dropout rate.