

(a) whether it is a fact that University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) are being abolished;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has the 'capability/infrastructure' to regulate the foreign universities that are likely to be set up in the country in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBBAL) : (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission and the committee to advise on the Renovation Rejuvenation of Higher Education under Prof. Yash Pal, the need to establish an overarching authority in higher education other than agricultural and medical education has been expressed by Government as one of its priorities, subsuming the existing regulatory bodies such as University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). Fragmentation of Knowledge over time has constrained the emergence of new knowledge at the frontiers of disciplines. It has become imperative that a holistic view of higher education is taken because of the increasingly converging nature of disciplines at the frontiers of emerging knowledge. Also, the restructuring of the Higher Education sector, in the context of a knowledge economy that thrives on innovation, the creation of new ideas and raising the consciousness of people, requires a new spirit of regulation that respects the autonomy of institutions amidst the need for accountability towards quality with opportunities for access to all.

(c) and (d) The draft legislative proposals including that for the regulation of entry and operation of foreign educational institutions, which has been finalized for introduction in Parliament, provides for an appropriate regulatory mechanism by authorities established by law.

Rise in prices of Steel

† *515. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that prices of steel have risen in international market during the last six months;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the rise in its prices in countries like China and USA;

(c) whether it is also a fact that prices of steel have risen in the country too; and

(d) if so, the rise in its prices from January, 2010 till date?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Price of steel in the international market has increased over last six months. Ministry of Steel monitors

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

freight on board (FOB), export price from major steel producing countries. The movement of international steel prices (FOB) in respect of major categories of steel is given below:-

US Dollar/Tonne

Month	TMT	HR Coil	CR Coil	GP Sheets
Oct 09	505	475	595	625
Nov 09	495	483	615	645
Dec 09	510	510	625	660
Jan 10	535	535	635	660
Feb 10	540	555	685	695
Mar 10	570	608	700	745
Apr 10	660	655	790	745

(Source : Economic Research Unit)

(c) and (d) The retail market prices in India have increased since March, 2010. The indicative retail market prices in respect of certain major categories of steel, inclusive of taxes, duties and transportation in Delhi market are as below:-

Rupees/Tonne

Month	TMT	HR Coil	CR Coil	GP Sheets
January 2010	33970	35980	39530	44050
February 2010	33310	35890	40090	44350
March 2010	35100	36810	41210	45720
April 2010	40890	45090	47580	52580

(Source : Joint Plant Committee)

Construction of new rail lines in East Central Railway

*516. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of physical targets fixed for construction of new rail lines and doubling of existing lines in East Central Railway during the year 2007-08 and onwards;

(b) whether Railways have achieved the laid down targets;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to overcome the hurdles hampering achievement of the targets?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) to (c) During the last 3 years *i.e.* 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, target of 196 km new line and 128 km of doubling