

present number of university level institutions is 504. A mix of initiatives, in stepping up public investments, encouraging not-for-profit private participation and public-private-partnerships, is the strategy towards capacity expansion in higher education.

**Multiplicity of entrance examinations for higher education**

1421. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of State Education Ministers was held recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether they reached any consensus on reducing the multiplicity of entrance examinations for higher education; and
- (d) if so, how much time it will take for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A Conference of State Education Ministers' was held on 18th June, 2010. In the Conference, a child centric vision of education including higher education was shared with States. In particular, States were exhorted to join hands in reducing the multiplicity of entrance examinations for entry to higher education as also the need to develop a core curriculum in schools for the subjects of science and mathematics, without in any manner restricting or affecting the authority of States in prescribing syllabi and conducting examinations.

The need to establish a National Institute for Assessment and Evaluation; giving weightage to be accorded to performance in Class-XII in entrance tests for professional and other courses; extending the system of Comprehensive and Continuous Evaluation for assessment of students upto Class-X; enunciating a National Vocational Education Qualification Framework and promoting value education are some of the other important issues that were discussed in the Conference of State Education Ministers.

**Establishment of central university in Darjeeling**

†1422. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the reasons for pendency of the proposal for establishing a Central University in Darjeeling;

(b) the problems in establishing Central University in Darjeeling; and

(c) by when this university is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) As approved by National Development Council, during the Xlth Five Year Plan period 2007-12, the Central Government has established, through Central University Act 2009, 16 new Central Universities in all such states (except Goa) as do not have a Central University. Since in West Bengal there is already a Central University, namely, Visva-Bharati at Santi-Niketan, it has not been possible, at this stage, to accede to the request for establishment of a Central University in Darjeeling.

#### **Admission of students in IITs**

1423. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of students have lost their admission to IITs a day before they were to deposit their fees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to safeguard the future of these students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Some candidates who did not qualify in the Architecture/Design aptitude test were inadvertently allotted B.Arch and B.Des courses in the Joint Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE) 2010. Most of the affected candidates have been allotted seats based on their original choice sheet and seat availability.

#### **Proposal to amend RTE Act**

1424. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to amend the Right to Education Act;