

- (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;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that schools have been protesting against automatic promotions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Government has received representations from (a) organizations working for the welfare of the children with disabilities and (b) minority institutions, seeking certain amendments to the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill 2010 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 16th April, 2010 incorporating the following amendments to the RTE Act:

i. Inclusion of children with disabilities in the definition of 'child belonging to disadvantaged group' in clause (d) of section 2 of the RTE Act.

ii. Inclusion of children with cerebral palsy, mental retardation, autism and multiple disabilities under the proviso to Section 3 (2) of the RTE Act, 2009.

iii. Provision that School Management Committee (SMC) of an aided minority school constituted under section 21 of the RTE Act shall function in an advisory capacity and further that the SMC of an aided minority school constituted under section 21 will not be required to prepare the School Development Plan under section 22 of the Act.

(c) and (d) The Govt. has received representations on the provisions of the RTE Act relating to no board examination and no detention till completion of elementary education.

Schools in Assam

1425. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that students of hundreds of lower primary and middle schools (ME, LP, MV) in Assam which were opened with requisite permission are not getting Mid-Day-Meal and free book facilities till date;