

- (c) whether Government was unaware of such reasons at the time of approving it;
- (d) whether it is a fact that Government is working in a discriminatory manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The proposal to open the Regional Centre of Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad at Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh has been deferred for now as there is no provision for opening the said centre in the 11th Five Year Plan, approved by the National Development Council (NDC).

#### **Reservation in higher education**

2968. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a survey conducted by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) for the National Academy of Sciences has revealed that higher education quota/reservation must continue in Central educational institutions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the said survey has opined that large-scale privatization in higher education is diluting the benefits of reservation and a large population of reserved category is disadvantaged; and
- (d) if so, the views of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the report, the focus of the study was more on analyzing the OBC reservation policy with reference to the field of higher education. The report has stated that in States where reservation for the OBCs to academic institutions has existed for several decades, the evidence shows that the students are as competitive as students from general categories at the stage of entrance and exit from the institutions.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Constitution has been amended at the initiative of the Government to provide for reservations in educational institutions by laws of the appropriate legislatures.

**Screening test in model schools**

2969. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision not to allow screening test in the proposed model schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to set up 6,000 model schools in the country;

(d) whether it is a fact that out of 6,000 schools, 2,500 schools will be set up in the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The model schools under PPP mode are to be set up in blocks which are not educationally backward.

**Joint Education Council between India and Australia**

2970. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Australia have agreed to set up Joint Education Council (JEC); and