

(c) The action plan envisages coverage, in a phased manner, of all Gram Panchayats in districts having adult female literacy rate of 50% or less (as per census 2001).

(d) The programme has already been rolled out in 167 districts.

#### **Innovation Universities**

3427. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has considered a Concept Note on the establishment of Innovation Universities aiming at world class standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the final decision taken in this regard; and

(d) by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) A concept Note on the establishment of Innovation Universities aiming at world class standards has been prepared by Government. The concept Note has been placed in the public domain at <http://www.education.nic.in/uhe/Universitiesconceptnote.pdf>, for wider consultations.

(c) and (d) Universities for Innovation are provided for across two five year Plan periods, beginning with Eleventh Plan.

#### **Student suicides/deaths due to corporal punishment**

3428. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reported student suicides/deaths due to corporal punishment in schools in the country during last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the steps Government has taken/proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There have been reports of sporadic incidents of suicide by students due to corporal punishment in schools. However, as education is a concurrent subject and a majority of schools are under the purview of the State Government, data on number of such incidents is not centrally maintained by this Ministry.

(b) Corporal punishment has been banned in all the schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has issued guidelines of all States/UTs as well as to the District Administrations for addressing the issue of corporal punishment in schools. As per Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, no child shall be subjected to physical punishment or mental harassment. The Ministry has written letters to all State Governments to prohibit corporal punishment in all school under their jurisdiction. Several States have reported that they have banned corporal punishment.