

Literacy programme

3429. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the States in which the continuing literacy programme is going on;
- (b) how much funds have been earmarked for the continuing literacy programme in Union Budget 2010-11; and
- (c) the initiatives Government will take to implement skill upgradation and vocational training programmes through continuing literacy programmes in States like Kerala where the programme is going on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Sir, duration of the Continuing Education Programme under National Literacy Mission all over India ended on 30.9.2009

- (b) and (c) Does not arise.

Standard of education in universities and colleges

3430. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether contrary to India's plan to become a strong knowledge power, a parliamentary panel has found that only 30 per cent of the universities and 10 per cent of colleges are of high quality and the Ministry has held State Governments responsible for the situation;
- (b) if so, whether Parliamentary Committee on Estimates has held University Grants Commission responsible for the prevailing low/mediocre standards of majority of universities and colleges in the country; and
- (c) if so, what are other main points mentioned by the panel and the steps Government has taken to implement suggestions made by the panel to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Parliamentary Committee on Estimate has found that 30 per cent of the universities and 10 per cent of colleges are of high quality. This is due to the fact that 90% of the institutions funded by University Grants Commission (UGC) are under the administrative control of State Governments. The Committee report pointed out that UGC has to improve its functioning in order to improve the standards of higher education.

- (c) The Committee *inter-alia* recommended providing incentives to State Governments to encourage them to give adequate maintenance grants to State Universities and colleges, giving one time special grant to 'C' and 'D' grade colleges, model amendments in the Acts of the State Universities, special development grants to improve facilities. Faculty development programmes and mandatory NAAC accreditation.