

- (c) the extent to which the country has been benefited by the said conference; and
- (d) the details of the decisions of the said conference so far implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) As per information provided by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the University and TERI have organised the International Conference on Digital Libraries during 23rd - 26th February, 2010 with the objective to provide a platform for interaction among experts, researchers, academics and students on the issue of bridging the digital divide through knowledge sharing. The Conference provided vision to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enabled education, including web-based methodologies, etc. for furtherance of the objectives of Distance Learning. One of the major recommendations of the Conference was to strengthen ICT infrastructure. The Government has provided the broadband connectivity to 8500 colleges.

Refusal to renew student visas

*450. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian students are unable to return to Australia because of the collapse of several colleges, refusal to renew student visas and the violence against Indian community there; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to help those students?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) As per the information furnished by High Commission of India in Australia, the reply is in the negative.

- (b) Does not arise.

Encroachment of railway land

*451. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a huge chunk of railway land in the country is under encroachment;
- (b) if so, the details of railway land illegally encroached by unauthorized persons, State-wise and district-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to reclaim the land from such unauthorized encroachers, State-wise and district-wise during the last two years; and
- (d) the valuation of such land under unauthorized possession?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Indian Railways have approximately 10.65 lakh acre of land, out of which 2460 acres of land, which constitutes 0.23% of total land holding, is under encroachment.