

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) All technical institutions including private engineering colleges are required to adhere to the norms and standards prescribed by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to maintain the standards of technical education. In cases of the proposals for establishment of new technical institutions, AICTE examines the proposal from the sponsoring trust, gets those claims verified *viz-a-viz* norms and standards prescribed by it through the Expert Visiting Team. On the basis of the report of the visiting team, AICTE grants approval for establishment of new technical institutions. As regards the existing technical institutions and engineering colleges, such institutions are required to furnish the information in the form of Compliance Report to AICTE. On the basis of the said Compliance Report, AICTE accords the permission for extension of approval etc. In case AICTE receives any complaint against any engineering college with *prima facie* evidence, the same is got inquired and appropriate action is taken in accordance with the provision under AICTE Approval Process Handbook framed under the concerned Regulations.

(c) and (d) Certain section of the private engineering colleges had raised the issue of shortage/non-availability of qualified faculty, in terms of “All India Council for Technical Education (pay scale, service condition and qualification for teacher and other academic staff in technical institutions (Diploma/Degree) Regulation, 2010” of AICTE). Considering the concern of the engineering colleges, AICTE has allowed the recruitment of teachers with B.Tech qualification as Pro-term Lecturers for a limited period of 3 years. The said Pro-term Lecturer is supposed to obtain its masters qualifications within the period of 3 years. In order to address the issue of shortage of qualified faculties also to facilitate the students to pursue their higher study leading to award of M.Tech degree. The AICTE has granted permission to start second shift in the existing institutions.

Adult female literacy rate

3426. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to enhance the adult female literacy rate, Government has launched the new variant of National Literacy Mission and has fixed the target of reducing the gender gap in literacy to 10 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action plan prepared to achieve the goal; and

(d) the achievement made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Saakshar Bharat, the new variant of National Literacy Mission has been launched with prime focus on adult female literacy. It aims to provide opportunities to acquire basic literacy, skill development, continuing education and equivalency to formal school education.

(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.