

The University Grants Commission (UGC) on its part, despite financial constraint, has taken number of steps through various schemes/programmes to strengthen quality of higher education such as Universities with Potential for Excellence (UPE), Colleges with Potential Excellence (CPE) and Centre for Excellence. During the Eleventh Plan, 374 model degree colleges in the district having GER lower than national level with the Centre-State funding in the ratio of 1:1 for Special Category States and 1:2 for other States has been provided. Additional assistance is to be provided to 160 State universities and about 5500 colleges which are already declared fit to receive grants under Section 12B of the UGC Act. Eight new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have been set up during the first two years of the Eleventh Plan. Five new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have also been set up. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has permitted second shift in certain engineering colleges and polytechnics. Expansion of intake in Central Educational Institutions by 54% has been undertaken consequent to the implementation of the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006. A Bill namely "The National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010" making accreditation mandatory has been introduced in Parliament on 3rd May, 2010.

Promotion of Tamil language

3431. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the State Government of Tamil Nadu had taken an initiative to promote Tamil and also earmarked Rs. 100 crore fund for the above purpose;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Government of Tamil Nadu had asked the Central Government to share the huge expenditure for the purpose of promotion of Tamil language; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No such intimation/proposal has been received by the Central Government from the Government of Tamil Nadu.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

Amendments in RTE Act

3432. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to make amendments in the Right to Education (RTE) Act;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the sections which are being considered for amendment; and

(c) whether Government is doing so under pressure of protests from private schools and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Consequent upon examination of the representations received from (a) organizations working for the welfare of the children with disabilities and (b) minority institutions, a decision was taken to carry out certain amendments to the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. Accordingly, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2010 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 16th April, 2010 incorporating the following amendments to the RTE Act:—

- (i) Inclusion of children with disabilities in the definition of ‘child belonging to disadvantaged group’ in clause (d) of section 2 of the RTE Act.
- (ii) To provide that children with disabilities including children with cerebral palsy, mental retardation, autism and multiple disabilities shall have the right to pursue free and compulsory education in accordance with Chapter V of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.”
- (iii) To provide that School Management Committee (SMC) of an aided minority school constituted under section 21 of the RTE Act shall function in an advisory capacity and further that the SMC of an aided minority school constituted under section 21 will not be required to prepared the School Development Plan under section 22 of the Act.

Educational institutions having minority status

3433. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of educational institutions in our country that have got minority status by the order of National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI);
- (b) the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (c) whether any specific guidelines to determine minority status exist?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The State-wise and year-wise details as on 01.08.2010 of the number of educational institutions in the country that have been issued minority status certificates by the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) NCMEI has prescribed Indicia for grant of minority status to an educational institution which envisage *inter-alia*, that the institution has been established by member/members of the religious minorities for the benefit of the minorities and is administered by the minorities.