

(a) whether two day conference of the State Education Ministers was held in January, 2005 in Bangalore to discuss admissions and fixing tuition fees for the professional education through self financing institutions regulate private universities and entry of foreign universities in the country;

(b) if so, to what extent these steps were discussed in the conference;

(c) the final decisions arrived there at;

(d) the steps being taken to implement them;

(e) whether the State Education Ministers have also discussed entry of the foreign universities and explored the possibility of enacting a central legislation to regulate them; and

(f) whether all the States have agreed on a central law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (f) A Conference of the State Ministers of Higher and Technical Education was held at Bangalore on January 10-11, 2005 mainly to discuss (i) admission and fixation of tuition fee for professional education through self-financing private institutions; (ii) regulation of private universities; and (iii) entry of foreign universities in India; there was a general consensus among the states for a Central legislation regarding the issue relating to admission and regulation of fee. Accordingly, legislation has been drafted for vetting by concerned departments for circulation among the various stakeholders including the State Governments. There is no consensus with regard to the issues relating to private universities and Foreign Universities. A Committee of CUBE is addressing all aspects of financing of universities. A Committee of experts is looking into various issues pertaining to the entry of foreign universities in India.

Mushrooming of Private Technical Institutes

649. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have expressed concern on the mushrooming of private technical institutes in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that these private technical institute can create problems for the students coming out of these institutes in getting job; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction to regularise these institutes in order to address grievances of the students of these institutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) The Government has permitted private initiative in technical education since there is demand for technical manpower within the country as well as in the global market. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has been mandated to assure quality in technical education. The Council has laid down strict norms and standards for setting up new institutions of technical education and for introduction of new technical courses in existing institutions. The expansion in technical education is necessary, especially in the emerging areas of technology so as to keep pace with the global as well as national demand for technical manpower. The AICTE ensures that the quality of these institutions is constantly monitored and upgraded so that the manpower produced by these colleges is accepted globally as well as nationally. For awareness of students, a list of approved technical institutes has been made available on the website of AICTE (www.aicteernet.in). AICTE also publishes notices, from time to time, in leading newspapers, cautioning all concerned to check the approval status of technical institutions before joining them.

Setting up of IITs

650. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to set up new IITs in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether the Ministry would think of upgrading the existing IITs; and
- (d) whether there is an idea to set up more IITs in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) In view of the announcement made by the Prime Minister on 15th August, 2003 that five new IITs will be set up by upgrading promising academic institutions, the Government has constituted an Expert Committee to identify such academic institutions. The Committee has since submitted its report and the same is under consideration of the Government.