

Parents/Teachers Association are held at periodical intervals and parents can also advise the teacher for suitable option in respect of their ward. However, students have the freedom to change the medium of examination during the academic year.

Setting up of Navodaya Vidyalayas

1282. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the States/UTs in which Navodaya Vidyalayas have not been set up so far;
- (b) whether Government would set up Navodaya Vidyalayas in such States/UTs without making Hindi compulsory; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Navodaya Vidyalayas have not yet been set up in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) The Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme envisages three language formula with medium of instruction for children as mother tongue or the regional language, up to VIII class. In non-Hindi speaking States, the concerned regional language is studied as first language and Hindi is studied as a third language from class VI to X only. There is no proposal to deviate from the existing policy.

Foreign Universities and Colleges under the ambit of UGC

1283. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are bringing foreign universities and colleges under the ambit of UGC to standardize the curriculum etc.;
- (b) what is the outcome to the two-days State Education Ministers Conference held recently in Bangalore; and
- (c) the details of the foreign universities and colleges through affiliations, State-wise?