

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action Government has taken on the Sri Lankan request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Government of India's assistance has been sought by the Government of Sri Lanka for its Ten year National Master Plan to move Sri Lanka towards a Trilingual (Sinhala, Tamil and English) Society'. An Indian delegation visited Sri Lanka, recently.

New guidelines for private higher educational institutions

1159. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated new guidelines for private higher educational institutions operating in our country;
- (b) if so, whether the guidelines are aimed at promoting openness and accountability in educational institutions; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) A legislative proposal, namely, "Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical Educational Institutions, Medical Educational Institutions and Universities Bill, 2010" has been introduced in Parliament. The Bill provides for mandatory disclosures by all higher educational institutions in regard to information relevant to their functioning through the 'Prospectus'.

Partnership of educational institutions with foreign universities

1160. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many educational institutions in the country have entered into partnership with the foreign universities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that such partnership will bring quality education to the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Indian universities and institutions of higher learning are autonomous in nature and are entirely free to enter into collaboration and cooperation with their counterparts in other countries. The Ministry of Human Resource Development, through appropriate policy framework as well as by enhancing bilateral relations with foreign countries, strives to create a conducive atmosphere for Indian institutions to tie up with their foreign counterparts and vice versa. Such arrangements inter-alia aim at achieving quality education.

Establishment of Bal Bhawans in Maharashtra

†1161.SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether sufficient number of Bal Bhawans have been established in backward and rural areas of Maharashtra along with all parts of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal has been received from the State Government with regard to setting up of more Bal Bhawans in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and time-limit for approval of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) At present, there are eight Bal Bhavans in the State of Maharashtra including rural areas as detailed below :

- (i) Maharashtra Rajya Jawahar Bal Bhavan, Mumbai
- (ii) Sai Bal Bhavan, Aurangabad
- (iii) Jai Hind Bal Bhavan, Dhule
- (iv) Rotary Bal Bhavan, Deulgaon Raja Distt.Buldana (Maharashtra)
- (v) Sai Bal Bhavan, Nagao Nagar, Distt. Dhule
- (vi) Garware Bal Bhavan, Sidko, Aurangabad
- (vii) SADAF Bal Bhavan, Malegaon (Dist. Nasik) and
- (viii) Bal Bhavan, Bajaj Nagar, Nagpur.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.