

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved the proposal to set up thirteen new Central universities and convert three State universities into Central universities during the current Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the States which would get these Central universities and the State universities proposed to be converted to Central universities; and

(c) the steps being taken for implementation of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Universities Act, 2009 for establishment of one new Central University in each of the States of Punjab, Kerala, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu and conversion of three State Universities, namely, Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur and Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna, Garhwal University, Srinagar, in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand, respectively, came into force on 15.1.2009. By an amendment to the said Act, a second University in the State of Jammu and Kashmir has since been established by the Central Universities (Amendment) Act, 2009.

Reservation of seats for poor children in schools

1152. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided that schools should have 25 per cent of seats reserved for poor children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government proposes to take against such schools which are not implementing Government's decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Section 12 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, inter alia, provides that a specified category school and an

unaided school not receiving any kind of aid or grants to meet its expenses from the appropriate Government or the local authority shall admit in class I to the extent of at least twenty-five per cent of the strength of that class, children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group in the neighbourhood and provide free and compulsory elementary education till its completion. The unaided school shall be reimbursed expenditure so incurred by it to the extent of per-child-expenditure incurred by the State, or the actual amount charged from the child, whichever is less subject to certain terms and conditions.

It is the duty of the appropriate Government and the local authority to take necessary steps for carrying out the provisions of the Act. The RTE Act, inter alia, provides for monitoring and protection of rights of the child by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and the State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights.

Adult Literacy Programme

1153. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether extensive publicity of Adult Literacy Programme has been carried out across all rural areas;
- (b) whether Government funds allocated for this purpose have been utilised efficiently; and
- (c) the follow up sessions with those registered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Environment building and mobilisation is integral to mass campaign approach, the dominant strategy followed to promote literacy under Saakshar Bharat, the new variant of National Literacy Mission. The State Literacy Mission Authorities of the respective States (covered under Saakshar Bharat) are obliged to undertake activities aimed at environment building and mobilisation at the village level, for which an amount of Rs 2500/- per Gram Panchayat has been provided for in the Programme. Environment building and mobilisation is a continuous activity that must run through till the end of the Programme (31.3.2012). Implementation of the Programme, including environment building and mobilisation, is regularly reviewed with the implementing agencies.