

1	2	3	4	5
18	Kerala	32	14	-
19	Lakshadweep	01	01	-
20	Madhya Pradesh	80	50	-
21	Maharashtra	53	33	02
22	Manipur	06	09	-
23	Meghalaya	07	08	-
24	Mizoram	04	07	-
25	Nagaland	05	11	-
26	Orissa	49	30	05
27	Puducherry	04	04	-
28	Punjab	46	21	-
29	Rajasthan	57	33	-
30	Sikkim	01	04	03
31	Tamil Nadu	37	-	-
32	Tripura	08	04	-
33	Uttar Pradesh	92	68	-
34	Uttarakhand	38	13	05
35	West Bengal	53	18	05
All States		960*	584	67

* The remaining KVs out of a total of 1073 in the country and abroad are project schools.

Talking/Braille books for the blind

1797. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether talking/Braille books are available for all available courses in all Kendriya Vidyalayas and universities in the country;

(b) if not, the steps taken by Government to ensure that all such books are available for the benefit of the blind people;

(c) whether Government is considering making audio versions available of all books published in the country by making it compulsory for publishers to come out with audio versions of their books; and

(d) if not, the alternate policy that is being pursued to make all books available for blind people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has entered into an agreement with National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH) for preparation of Braille versions of textbooks prepared by NCERT. These cater to the educational needs of the visually impaired users in schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), including students of Kendriya Vidyalayas.

University Grants Commission (UGC) has introduced a scheme to help visually challenged permanent teachers in universities and colleges, to pursue teaching and research with the help of a reader and by using teaching and learning aids by providing readers' allowance and funds for purchase of Braille books, recorded materials, etc.

(c) and (d) No Sir. However the National Talking Book Library of NIVH has audio/talking books in popular disciplines opted by the visually impaired students studying in the following universities:

- (i) HNB Garhwal University
- (ii) Punjab University
- (iii) Himachal Pradesh University
- (iv) Delhi University
- (v) Jawaharlal Nehru University
- (vi) Annamalai University
- (vii) Uttarakhand Technical University
- (viii) Loyala College, University of Madras

(ix) Bhoj University

(x) Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)

NIVH has established 21 extension library counters in 12 States for provision of Braille and talking books. Audio text books are also available for Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Uttarakhand State Board and Open School from class IX onwards.

Setting up of international technical institution in Singapore

1798. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is in the process of setting up an international technical institution in Singapore;

(b) whether some committee/core group has been set up to prepare the project report to interact with Indo-Singapore Project Agency;

(c) the probable names of the members of the committee/group;

(d) the reaction of Singapore Government to this ambitious proposal;

(e) the details of the courses to be provided by the proposed institution in Singapore; and

(f) the criteria for admission in the proposed institution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Singapore Government had suggested formation of a Joint Working Group (JWG) at the Government-to-Government level for setting up of an International Institute of Technology at Singapore. However, this Ministry is of the view that a working group at institutional level would be more appropriate especially since the proposed institute is to be set up by the IITs and not by the Government of India. This Ministry has recommended the names of the members for JWG from India side. The Government of Singapore has not yet suggested their representative for the JWG.

(e) and (f) Does not arise at present.

Jan Shikshan Sansthan

†1799. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.