

- (iii) Support for establishment of Rural Kiosks
- (iv) Steps to accelerate PC and Broadband penetration in India
- (v) Language Computing Initiatives
- (vi) E-Governance Investment Fund and Innovation Centre
- (vii) Security Cooperation

(c) An agreement has been signed in the area of "Security Cooperation" by Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) of Department of Information Technology (DIT) with Microsoft. For the "E-Governance Investment Fund and Innovation Center", National Institute of Smart Governance (NISG), a Section 25, not-for-profit Company, promoted by government jointly with the private sector has entered into the agreement.

Reservation in jobs for minorities

*28. SHRI PROMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to introduce reservation of jobs for minorities on the basis of religion; and
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration for the Government. However, a National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities has been set up to suggest the criteria for identification of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities and to recommend measures for their welfare, including reservation in education and government employment.

Overseas campus of IIMs

*30. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the differences between Government and the Indian

Institutes of Management (IIMs) on setting up overseas campuses have now been resolved;

(b) if so, whether Government have agreed to the proposal of IIM-Bangalore to set up a campus at Singapore;

(c) whether Government have relied on the findings of the VK Shunglu Committee on the financial requirements of the IIMs and other related issues;

(d) whether the IIMs have consistently maintained that paucity of well trained faculty has been a stumbling block in expanding student base; and

(e) if so, whether Government would insist on the IIMs to fulfil their commitments to domestic students first before venturing to set out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Only one Indian Institute of Management (IIM) viz. IIM, Bangalore, is currently examining the viability of setting up a campus abroad. Memorandum of Association (MOA) of IIM, Bangalore, does not empower it to establish campuses abroad. The Institute have to suitably amend its MOA, as per procedure, before taking further action to establish an overseas campus.

Shunglu Committee was set up to examine the additional requirements of funds and the financial structure of the IIMs, and financial and other related requirements for the proposed increase in the IIMs' intake capacity. The Committee's Report was deliberated upon by the Boards of Governors of the IIMs. Government took the view that respective Boards may fix fees as appropriate. Currently, Government provides financial assistance only to IIMs at Indore, Lucknow and Kozhikode. The other three IIMs at Ahmedabad, Calcutta and Bangalore do not require any financial assistance from the Government.

Shortage of trained faculty has not generally come in the way of IIMs expanding their intake in a gradual manner. They are expected to accord priority to meeting requirements of the country.