

(b) whether such institutions are screened and what are the methods by which their efficiency and performance are monitored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) No institution has been recognized for offering project guidance for renewable power energy projects. However, the Centre for Wind Energy Technology, Chennai, an autonomous institution under the administrative control of this Ministry, provides testing and certification services to wind turbine electric generator manufacturers. Likewise, the Solar Energy Centre, Gurgaon, technical arm of this Ministry, provides testing services to the solar energy industry. The Alternate Hydro Energy Centre of IIT, Roorkee, provides testing services to small hydro power project developers.

Budgetary allocation for adult education

*527. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that budgetary allocation for adult education has been reduced to Rs. 214 crore this year, as against Rs. 263 crore in last year's revised estimates;

(b) if so, whether Government are of the view that targets in respect of adult education have been achieved and therefore lesser budgetary allocation is required;

(c) if not, the reasons for reduction in allocation; and

(d) the performance details of various schemes run by Government in the field of adult education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The budgetary provision for adult education during 2006-07 is Rs. 214.97 crores both for Plan and Non-Plan (excluding North East Region) as against Revised Estimates of Rs. 262.97 crores for 2005-06. The provision is inclusive of allocation for various schemes of adult education as also the budgetary support for Directorate of Adult Education etc.

(b) and (c) The goal of the National Literacy Mission is to achieve 75% literacy by 2007 in the age group of 7 years and above. The Universalisation of Elementary Education and eradication of adult illiteracy form the two-pronged strategy for improving the literacy rate of the country. The budgetary provision of Elementary Education has been increased from Rs. 12,241.76 crores in 2005-06 to Rs. 16,892.50 crores in 2006-07. The increased allocation under Elementary Education would to an extent supplement the efforts of NLM in achieving its targets.

(d) The achievements under various schemes of Adult Education are as under:—

- (i) Literacy Campaigns: 597 districts in the country have been covered under Total Literacy Campaigns for imparting basic literacy to the adult illiterates and 487 districts have been covered under Post Literacy Programme for the reinforcement of literacy skills of new-literates. So far, 1203.49 lakh persons are reported to have been made literate under various programmes. Female Literacy Programmes were taken up in those districts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa, which had female literacy below 30%. In addition, 150 districts, which had the lowest literacy rates in the country, have been identified for launching a special literacy drive.
- (ii) Continuing Education Programme: 311 districts have been covered under Continuing Education Programme for providing opportunities for lifelong learning to the new-literates and other sections of the community through 2,12,032 Continuing Education Centres.
- (iii) Support to Non-Governmental Organizations: 25 State Resource Centres have been set up for providing academic and technical resource support to adult education programmes.
- (iv) Jan Shikshan Sansthan: 172 Jan Shikshan Sansthan have been sanctioned for providing training in vocational courses to the neo-literates and unskilled and unemployed youth.