

(c) what action Government propose to take to set up a Central university in the backward State of Orissa, the demand for which is pending since long?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Proposals for conversion of Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, and Tripura University, Agartala, into central universities, and establishment of a new Central University in Sikkim are under consideration.

(c) No formal proposal for setting up a central university in Orissa is under consideration at present.

#### **Outsourcing of IGNOU publications**

\*136. SHRI R.K. ANAND:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) the strength of the faculty at IGNOU;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the publications of the IGNOU are outsourced despite the presene of sizeable faculty;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken for the development of faculty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) 325.

(b) and (c) Ultimate responsibility for producing all course material and conducting all academic activities is that of the University Faculty. Services of outside Experts are utilised, to the extent necessary, for consultation as well as for writing course material in collaboration with in-house faculty.

(d) The University has a comprehensive faculty development programme, wherein all new teachers are oriented in principles of curriculum design and material development, and periodic refresher courses are also held.