

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) No, Sir. Pursuant to the general perception about dilution of academic standards in certain institutions deemed to be universities, Government constituted a Committee of eminent academic experts to review the functioning of institutions deemed to be universities and the desirability of their continuance as such. The Review Committee, on the basis of their evaluation and assessment, reported that while some institutions deemed to be universities met the required benchmarks, some others would need some time to do so and yet, some others, numbering 44, owing to deficiencies, did not deserve to continue as institutions deemed to be universities. The Government has, in principle, accepted the report of the Review Committee. However, the issue regarding implementation of the recommendations contained in the aforesaid report is currently *sub judice* in the Supreme Court of India in the matter of Viplav Sharma Vs Union of India and Others [WP (C) 142 of 2006]. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed the Government to maintain *status quo* with regard to these 44 institutions deemed to be universities.

Bringing of pre-school learning under RTE Act

710. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to put pre-school learning under the purview of Right to Education Act;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such a step would help to ensure continuity in the child's education;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had received proposals in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The National Advisory Council (NAC) has recommended the addition of pre-primary section in all Government schools. NAC has recommended that this will pave the way for examining, over time the feasibility of bringing pre-school learning under the purview of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. The Planning Commission has constituted an inter-Ministerial Group for restructuring and strengthening of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, including preschool education.