

#### **Opening of more Central Schools**

1495. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to set up Central Schools in districts where such schools are not in existence;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that setting up of more Central Schools will help to act as a level playing measure; and
- (d) if so, the total amount earmarked for opening of more Central Schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) to cater to the education requirement of uncovered areas is a continuous process. KVs are set up to cater to the educational needs of the wards of the transferable Central Government employees including Defence and Para-Military forces. These are opened on the request of the various Ministries of Government of India and State Governments/Union Territories subject to availability of funds and fulfillment of certain terms and conditions for setting up a new Kendriya Vidyalaya and are not district specific. At present there are 223 district in the country which have no KV in the Civil Sector.

(c) KVs are pace setting institutions and setting up of more KVs is likely to result in widespread use of better teaching practices.

(d) Funds will be earmarked for new KVs under Twelfth Five Year Plan and apportioned on year to year basis accordingly

#### **Task Force to monitor higher education**

1496. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to set up a Task Force to monitor higher education;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Government had undertaken higher education survey in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether it is also a fact that the inputs received during the survey had demanded many reforms in the higher education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) With the growing size and diversity of the higher

education sector in the country, particularly in terms of courses, management and geographical coverage it has become necessary to develop a sound data-base on higher education. In view of this, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has initiated an All India Survey on Higher Education. A Task Force has been constituted under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary (HE), MHRD with Representatives from University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education, Medical Council of India, Indian Institute of Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, Central Statistical Office, Universities, State Higher Education Departments etc. as members to oversee the survey work. No inputs demanding reforms in higher education has been received so far.

#### **Education channel launched by NCERT**

1497. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether NCERT has launched a 24 hour Education channel viz. 'Tarang';
- (b) if so, the details thereof together with its objectives;
- (c) the steps taken by NCERT to achieve its objectives;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to start special programmes on 'Tarang' TV channel for the benefit of rural students;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether there is any proposal to provide television sets in each rural school for the benefit of students; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET), New Delhi, a constituent unit of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), operates a telecast under the name 'Tarang' on Gyan Dashan and the National Network of Doordarshan channels. This telecast spans a total of three and a half hours each day. Other institutions in the school sector, viz., National Institute of Open Schooling and State Institutes of Educational Technology (SIETs) also telecast programmes on this channel.

(d) and (e) All programmes produced by CIET, New Delhi, and broadcast on 'Tarang' are primarily aimed at rural students taking special care to explain concepts and clarify difficulties.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. There is no Plan scheme under this Ministry to provide television sets in schools.