

has been enhanced to Sixty five years. Subject to availability of vacancy and fitness of teachers, they may be re-employed on contract basis after retirement upto the age of seventy years. In order to attract best brain to the teaching profession, the pay, allowances and service conditions of teachers have been made more attractive.

Academic standards in higher educational institutions

1461. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware about the problem of declining academic standard of many of our higher educational institutions;
- (b) if so, the corrective measures which were taken;
- (c) whether poor service conditions of academic staff also contributes to this; and
- (d) if so, whether Government would take steps to ensure reasonable salary and service conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There is no available report to indicate the problem of declining standards in the higher educational institutions.

(b) to (d) Improvement of quality of higher education is a continuous endeavour. A substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in the Eleventh Five Year Plan aiming at improvement of quality through increased allocation for improvement of infrastructure in the existing higher and technical educational institutions. During the period, 08 Indian Institute of Technology, 07 Indian Institute of Management, 05 Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, 02 School of Planning and Architecture, 10 National Institute of Technology and 01 Central Institute of Technology have been established.

Further, to attract quality faculty in higher educational institutions, the Government has taken the following steps:

1. Increased allocation of funds for Higher Education Sector.
2. Acceptance of the recommendations of the Pay Review Committee to provide higher salaries to faculty.
3. Academic reforms by University Grants Commission (UGC).
4. In order to address the issue of shortage of qualified faculty, if any and also to facilitate the students to pursue their higher study leading to award of M. Tech. degree, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has granted permission to start M. Tech. programme in teaching institutions and to start second shift in the existing institutions.

Apart from the above, UGC (Minimum Qualifications required for the appointment and Career Advancement of teachers in universities and institutions affiliated to it) 3rd Amendment Regulation, 2009 and the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil/Ph.D Degree), Regulation, 2009 has been notified on 11th May, 2009 for making NET/SLET compulsory for appointment for the post of Lecturers/Assistant Professors in Universities/Colleges and this is an important measure to improve the quality of teachers.

Leakage of AIEEE question paper

1462. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether question paper of AIEEE, 2011 has been leaked;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether, due to the leakage of paper, the students had been put to disadvantage;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by Government to stop such leakages in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. On 01.05.2011 at 07:30 a.m., a phone call was received from Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (UPSTF), Lucknow alleging that they are having the question papers of AIEEE - 2011 scheduled to commence from 09:30 a.m. The authorities of U.P. Special Task Force were requested to fax the alleged question paper to the CBSE. The question paper was received at 07:45 a.m. and it was got tallied after obtaining a copy of the actual question paper. On going through these two question papers, it was established that the fax was consisting of similar questions which were as per CBSE's valid question paper to be administered at 09:30 a.m. for AIEEE - 2011.

(c) and (d) The Central Board of Secondary Education took immediate decision and announced the re-schedule of timings of examination which are as follows:-

- (i) Paper - I consisting of Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics scheduled for 01.05.2011 was postponed from 09:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at 1685 centres for 11,14,541 candidates.
- (ii) The rescheduled examination for Paper - I was conducted on the same day *i.e.* 01.05.2011 for 10,81,573 candidates at 1633 centres from 12:00 noon to 03:00 p.m.
- (iii) The Paper - II was conducted from 04:00 p.m. to 07:00 p.m. on the same day *i.e.* 01.05.2011.