

**Scholarships for SC and ST girls for pursuing higher studies**

**\*273. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to grant scholarship to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe girls for pursuing higher studies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether any guidelines have since been formulated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) A Central Sector Scheme for grant of scholarships for college and university students is already under implementation. The scheme provides 82000 scholarships per annum, out of which 41000 scholarships are for girls. 15% and 7.5% of this is earmarked for SC/ST girl students respectively.

- (c) Question does not arise.
- (d) Guidelines for the Central Sector Scheme of scholarships for college and university students have been issued.

**PPP between educational institutions and food manufacturers**

**\*274. SHRI D. RAJA:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a policy covering Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) between publicly funded educational institutions and commercial food manufacturers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether guidelines have been made for publicly funded universities to enter into PPP with commercial food manufacturers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether he is aware that food company Nestle has entered into PPP with publicly funded educational institutions; and
- (f) if so, the details of the partnerships and the objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (f) No such policy has been formulated by the Government. However, Universities are autonomous entities and may enter into collaborative arrangements with private companies for furtherance of objectives of learning and research.

There have been reports in print and electronic media indicating that food company Nestle India Limited has entered into Public Private Partnership with 4 public funded educational institutions namely Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, University of Mysore, Karnataka, Gobind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pant Nagar, and National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) Karnal. All the Universities except NDRI, Karnal are State owned and funded by the respective State Governments. The NDRI, Karnal is a Deemed to be University under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture).

NDRI has reported that Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has formulated a policy covering Public Private Partnership (PPP) between publicly funded institutions and commercial food manufacturers with regard to (i) Technology development (ii) Technology refinement and (iii) Technology transfer for commercialization. Publicly funded institutions such as NDRI can get into PPP with private dairy processors/food manufacturers so as to develop new technology or for commercialization of newly developed technologies.

Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, University of Mysore, Karnataka, Gobind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pant Nagar, and National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal have reported that they have entered into MoUs/agreements with Nestle India Limited to work on a project - 'Nutritional Awareness Programme' as a part of Nestle 'Healthy Kids' Global Program to create health nutritional awareness among students, specially from rural areas. The programme, *inter-alia*, also provides to cover students of age group 13-17 belonging to Class IX to XII. During the awareness programme, the students are to undergo two hours in each week for a period of 6 weeks. The total cost of the project is to be borne by Nestle India Limited.

**Priority to railway lines in Naxalites/Maoist affected areas**

\*275. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: