

(a) whether for the development of the country, there is a need for expansion and development of higher education system;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government has decided to start new educational institutions in the country for expansion of higher education;

(d) if so, the names of said new institutions; and

(e) the development of which sectors will be augmented as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Expansion and development of higher education is a continuous endeavour to achieve greater inclusion, equity and quality in higher education. A substantial increase in Plan allocation in the Eleventh Plan has been provided for, aimed at improvement in quality and infrastructure in the existing higher educational institutions and for setting up of new quality institutions.

(c) to (e) During the Eleventh Plan, new quality institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Schools for Planning and Architecture have been set up. Under the Scheme of Setting up of Model Degree Colleges in the identified 374 Educationally Backward Districts, the University Grants Commission have approved 48 proposals. In addition, a Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans has also been launched for students belonging to economically weaker sections with annual income upto Rs. 4.5 lakhs.

Improvement in higher education and enhanced enrolment leads to over-all development of the society and economy impacting almost all sectors, directly or indirectly.

Implementation of NKC recommendations

†2712. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Knowledge Commission (NKC) had submitted its report to Government about five years ago;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the total number of recommendations by the Commission that the Government was urged to implement;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the number of recommendations which have been implemented by Government, till March, 2011; and

(e) the remaining recommendations for whose implementation work has already started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) was constituted on 13th June, 2005, with a time-frame of three years, under the Planning Commission. The term was extended upto 31st March, 2009. The NKC has submitted around three hundred recommendations in 27 focus areas during its term. The Planning Commission which is the nodal agency in this regard, is monitoring the implementation of the recommendations from time to time. The detailed recommendations and the action taken thereon is available at its website <http://knowledgecommission.gov.in>.

KV teachers exchange programme with the United States

†2713. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether teachers of the Kendriya Vidyalayas will go to United States under the exchange programme developed by United States—India Educational Foundation (USIEF) and learn the education system prevailing there;

(b) if so, the extent of financial burden that Government will have to bear on account of this exchange programme; and

(c) the number of teachers, who will be sent to United States during 2011-12 session?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The teachers from all over India from 6th to 12th grade are eligible for the Fulbright Teacher Exchange programme conducted under the auspices of United States India Educational Foundation (USIEF). There is no fixed slot for the teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. There is no financial implications for the school from which the teacher is selected. The USIEF has invited applications for the programme beginning August/September, 2012 by September 15, 2011.

Inadequate water facility in schools in Andhra Pradesh

2714. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

SHRIMATI. T. RATNA BAI:

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.