

### **Complaints against private universities**

†1944. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private State universities at present and the number of private State universities that have been opened during the last one year, the details thereof State-wise;

(b) whether these are the institutions which wanted to get deemed university status but could not get deemed university status because they could not stand in conformity with the standards;

(c) the details of the various complaints received by the University Grants Commission (UGC) regarding private State University; and

(d) the details of the action taken on those complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There are 97 private State universities. 16 private State universities have been opened during the last one year. The details are available in University Grants Commission's (UGC) website <http://www.ugc.ac.in>.

(b) Out of these 97 private State universities, only six of them had applied for Deemed to be University status.

(c) and (d) A total number of 13 complaints have been received by UGC during the current year against different private Universities. The complaints mostly pertain to offering courses through distance mode, opening of off-campus centres, non-refund of fees etc. These Universities have been directed to take rectification measures wherever UGC has completed the process of enquiry.

### **Gauge conversion work in Madhya Pradesh**

†1945. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to convert narrow gauge line into broad gauge line from Gwalior to Sheopur Kalan in Madhya Pradesh;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the latest details thereof;
- (c) by when this gauge conversion work would be completed; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work of gauge conversion of Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan narrow gauge section alongwith its extension upto Kota was sanctioned in Railway Budget 2010-11. Preliminary activities like final location survey, preparation of detailed estimate etc. have been taken up.

(c) and (d) Target date of completion for the project has not yet been fixed.

#### **Reduction in the cost of education**

1946. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering and looking into the requests of parents to further undercut the cost of education of students;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) It has been stressed in National Policy on Education as well as in several judicial pronouncements that education is a not-for-profit activity and commercialization of education is to be avoided. Education being in the Concurrent List, is the shared responsibility of the Centre as well as State Governments. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 has been enacted which envisages significant reforms in the Elementary Education sector specially with reference to; admission, attendance and completion of elementary education by all children in schools which conform to specified norms and standards. In order to encourage students of SC/ST communities for pursuing higher education, Government has already introduced scholarship programmes for them to supplement the cost of education. In addition, Government has already introduced a scheme for Interest Subsidy on Education Loans to enable economically weaker section students for pursuing higher professional education.