

- (c) whether it is a fact that 33 per cent posts of teachers are lying vacant in JNU; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government to fill these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) is an autonomous body, established under the Jawaharlal Nehru University Act, 1966, and is governed by this Act and Statutes and Ordinances made thereunder.

As per the information furnished by the University, the C&AG, in its draft Performance Audit Report for 2011-12, had commented on relaxing the eligibility criteria for appointment of Deputy Registrar/Assistant Registrar, etc. However, on being satisfied with the reply of the University, the C&AG had dropped the aforementioned comment from its final Performance Audit Report, 2011-12.

- (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) University Grants Commission has informed that it has directed the University *vide* its communication dated 21.9.2011 to fill up the vacant teaching posts as per UGC's Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of teachers and other academic staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2010.

Proposal to provide Aakash tablets to students

553. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI :

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

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

- (a) to what extent the recently released world's cheapest Tablet 'Aakash' bring down digital divide between rich and poor students in the country;
- (b) how the Ministry is planning to distribute one crore 'Aakash' tablets to students;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to provide 'Aakash' to poor students of SC, ST and OBC category on subsidized rates; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) aims to leverage the potential of ICT in providing high-quality, personalized and interactive knowledge modules over the internet in any-time, any-where mode. To do so, a computing device that was low in cost but rich in features, was seen as an imperative. The low cost tablet PC 'Aakash' launched by Government will bring down the digital divide to a good extent.

(b) to (d) In the Eleventh Plan, under NMEICT, there is a provision for providing 50% subsidy to colleges and universities for procuring computing devices like 'Aakash' as per their requirements. The colleges and universities could then issue these devices to financially weak students from the library on the pattern of the Book Bank Scheme. Thus, the individual subsidy to poor students like SC, ST and OBC for buying Aakash tablets may not be needed.

Scholastic Aptitude Test

554. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is contemplating single test on the lines of the Scholastic Aptitude Test in the US to reduce stress for students and improve access to education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the system would be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Ministry.

(c) Does not arise.

Central funds to States under SSA

555. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the basis for allocation of Central funds to various States under SSA;

(b) the details of funds allocated to Andhra Pradesh under above schemes during Tenth Five Year Plan and so far in Eleventh Five Year Plan and for the rest of the country during the period, year-wise and scheme-wise;

(c) whether funds allocated to Andhra Pradesh have been spent for the specified purpose;

(d) if so, the results achieved year-wise and scheme-wise;

(e) whether any complaints of diversion/misuse of funds have come to the notice of Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) In the Tenth Five Year Plan the funding pattern under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) between Central and States was in the ratio of 75:25 (90:10 for NE States). The funding pattern between the Centre and States for Eleventh Plan was on a