

Standard of Deemed Universities

†546. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Deemed Universities in the country at present;
- (b) whether some of these universities are very much below the standard;
- (c) if so, the decision that Government is taking to revoke their recognition;
- (d) the number of students studying in the below standard institutions functioning as Deemed Universities; and
- (e) the measures adopted by Government to secure their future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There are 129 Deemed to be Universities in the country at present.

(b) Yes, Sir. Review Committee constituted by the Government had found 44 such institutions unfit to continue as Deemed to be Universities.

(c) The matter is presently sub-judice as the Hon'ble Apex Court has directed the Government to maintain *status-quo vis-à-vis* the 44 institutions found unfit to continue as institutions Deemed to, be Universities.

(d) The number of students in these 44 institutions, as gathered from the details furnished by the institutions during the process of review, was 1,95,020.

(e) The Government constituted a Task Force to advise the Government on action plan regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Committee. The terms of reference included suggesting a plan of action for protecting the interests of the students. The Task Force has given its report containing their suggestions on protecting the interests of the students on revoking declaration of the respective Deemed to be Universities. The Government has, in principle, accepted the report of the Task Force.

Promotion of foreign capital investment in the field of education

†547. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has prepared a five point agenda for promoting foreign capital investment in the field of education in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the said agenda;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether this agenda would promote foreign capital investment in the field of education; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Government has taken various initiatives for promoting foreign capital investment in the field of education including allowing foreign direct investment upto 100 per cent in automatic route. Legislation for prescribing a framework for the entry and operations of foreign educational institutions in India has been introduced in Parliament.

Survey on standard of education carried out by NGO

†548. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the survey regarding conditions and standard of education of primary schools in rural areas carried out by domestic NGO Pratham, which is supported by international organisations like U.N.I.C.E.F. and U.N.E.S.C.O.;

(b) if so, whether the survey report is disappointing on the parameters of Right to Education;

(c) if not, the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(d) the salient features of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Pratham, an NGO has carried out a survey in 5 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand and Rajasthan with support from U.N.I.C.E.F. and U.N.E.S.C.O. The study has noted that in the last two decades, impressive strides have been made in India in terms of providing school buildings, classrooms, teachers, textbooks and other facilities. These have been matched by very significant improvements in enrollment. The Annual Study Status of Education Report (ASER) study "Inside Primary Schools" tracked 30,000 rural children in Std. 2 and Std. 4 in 900 schools spread over five States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan. The key recommendations emerging from this study are as below:—

(i) Textbooks need urgent revisions. They need to start from what children can do and be more realistic and developmentally appropriate in what children are expected to learn, with clear learning goals and sequence.

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