

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is increasing interest in European universities in studying and understanding Indian culture, history and philosophy. This is reflected in growing number of requests from universities across Europe to the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to establish Chairs for Indian studies in those universities. ICCR maintained 10 Chairs in European Universities till 2008-09 and the number has gone up to 37 by the year 2011-12 with the addition of 6, 15 and 6 new Chairs in the years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively. In addition to these Chairs there are 16 new proposals seeking ICCR's support.

(c) Expenditure on chairs, seminars, academic visitors, and fellowship programmes for last two years and till date is given below:

|     |   |                  |
|-----|---|------------------|
| i   | Financial Year 2009-10                    | Rs. 7.79 Crores  |
| ii  | Financial Year 2010-11                    | Rs. 12.21 Crores |
| iii | Financial Year 2011-12                    | Rs. 16.54 Crores |
| vi  | Financial Year 2012-13 (Allocated Budget) | Rs. 14.54 Crores |

Apart from the above, universities are also involved in various other activities of ICCR such as Festivals, Performances and Exhibitions highlighting Indian culture.

#### **Pupil-teacher ratio in Bihar**

†3215. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pupil-Teacher Ratio in Bihar is far more than the norms prescribed at the national level and the details thereof; and

(b) the steps being taken to improve the Pupil-Teacher Ratio in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (b) As per the District Information System for Education (DISE) 2010-11, the Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) for Bihar is 58:1 at the primary level and 62:1 at the upper primary level, against the national average of 32:1 & 29:1 at primary level and upper primary level, respectively. Since inception of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in 2001-02 till 2011-12, 4,03,413 teacher posts have been sanctioned for the State of Bihar with a view to improving the PTR. In addition to sanctioning additional teacher posts under SSA, the State Government of Bihar have been advised to fill up the teacher vacancies under the State sector, as also to rationalize teacher deployment to address imbalances in teachers' deployment.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.