

- (a) whether, after providing virtual education, Government is now planning to provide 'virtual lab' online for all students;
- (b) if so, by when;
- (c) the manner in which it will provide laptops or tablet computers to students; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Sir, under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) scheme, this Ministry has sanctioned a project to IIT, Delhi to develop virtual labs in various disciplines of Science and Engineering. These virtual labs cater to students at the undergraduate level, post graduate level as well as to research scholar. So far, nearly 89 virtual labs have been developed and the same has been launched on 23rd February, 2012. Broad areas of virtual labs are Electronics and Communication Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Biomedical and Biotechnology Engineering, Chemical Sciences and Physical Sciences.

(c) and (d) Laptops or tablet computers are not being provided to the students through virtual lab project sanctioned to IIT Delhi. Students can access virtual labs using the computer and internet available at their institution or elsewhere if the facility of accessing the internet exists.

Funds for private schools from corporates

3977. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to allow private schools to receive funds from corporates towards corporate social responsibility;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to spend between Rs. 6000 and Rs. 19,000 per student; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Section 12(2) of the RTE Act provides that a private unaided school admitting children belonging to disadvantaged group and weaker section in pursuance of section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act shall be reimbursed expenditure so incurred by it to the extent of per-child-expenditure incurred by the State, or the actual amount charged from the child, whichever is less. The per-child expenditure by many private schools, especially in rural areas and small towns, is lower than that in Government schools. Reimbursement provided by Government, therefore, will be adequate to meet the costs of educating children from weaker sections in such schools. However, some schools in metros have per child budgets much in excess of those in State schools. These schools would have to find innovative ways, with philanthropic individuals, charitable trusts and corporate funding, to meet the gap without loading the general category students with fee hike.

(c) and (d) Reimbursement to private schools under section 12(2) of the RTE Act is to be provided by the respective State Government, on the basis of the per-child expenditure incurred by it. Accordingly, the amount of reimbursement would vary from one State to another.

Filling up of vacant posts of teachers for RTE Act

3978. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that effectively implement the RTE Act, Government needs to fill up the vacancies of several lakh of teachers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has asked State Governments to initiate an action plan to fill up these vacancies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The requirement of additional teachers for implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 was estimated at 5.08 lakh to be recruited in a phased manner over a period of three years. Based on proposals received