

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) So far, under National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) scheme, a project was sanctioned to IIT Rajasthan for achieving following deliverables after acquiring the LCADs for teacher empowerment:

- (i) Acquisition and testing of low cost access cum computing devices; and
- (ii) Hardware and software optimization of low cost access cum computing devices.

A Low Cost Access-cum-Computing Device (LCAD) named Aakash has been launched on 5th October, 2011. In the first phase of 1,00,000 tablets were targeted to the students in Higher technical education institutions so as to further ascertain technical feedback on its operation and usability.

(c) and (d) Since these tablets were for the purpose of testing, no criteria for distribution of tablet to students were laid down. Once the production capacities are built up, criteria for distribution of the tablets and its beneficiaries would get developed.

#### **Autonomy for universities**

1191. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Universities that have been granted autonomy;
- (b) the number of Universities that have applied for autonomy;
- (c) whether Government is monitoring their activities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Universities are autonomous bodies established by the respective legislations under an Act of Parliament or the State Legislature and are governed by their respective Acts, Statutes and Ordinances. Government does not interfere in the functioning of the Universities. Universities enjoy complete autonomy in respect of their governance, administrative and academic activities, subject to regulations issued by University Grants Commission (UGC), for maintaining and coordinating standards of higher education. There is no programme or scheme under which autonomy is granted to a University.

#### **Tie-up of Delhi University with DRDO**

1192. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Delhi University has tied up with Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) for setting up a Centre of Excellence in Delhi

University by the year 2015 and has invited proposals for funding innovative projects in its colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the idea is to identify core research areas of mutual interest and work towards establishing a Centre of Excellence through funding from DRDO within three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, the University has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO). One of the objectives of the MoU is to initiate the process to identify core technology research areas of mutual interest and to establish a centre of excellence at the University, preferably within a period of three years, through appropriate funding from the DRDO. Though inviting proposals from the colleges for funding of innovative projects is not a part of the MoU, the University has invited proposals from its colleges in this regard through its newly initiated Cluster Innovation Centre. A Monitoring and Assessment Committee has also been constituted to work on the objectives defined in the MoU.

#### **Monitoring of functioning of private universities**

1193. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to set up regulatory body to oversee and monitor the functioning of private universities in view of huge problems faced by the students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that despite paying huge amount as fees, students are not provided with basic amenities like safe drinking water, proper food and emergency medical services in private universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Private Universities are regulated by University Grants Commission [UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities)] Regulations, 2003. These Regulations are available on [www.ugc.ac.in](http://www.ugc.ac.in).

(c) Out of the total 109 Private Universities, the UGC has inspected 52 Universities with the help of Expert Committees which include representatives of the Statutory Council(s) concerned. The UGC Expert Committees have found certain