

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (c) Data on admission in higher educational institutions is not maintained. However, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of students enrolled in higher education in the country as a percentage of the population in the age group of 18-23 years is 15.0 in 2009-10. The Approach paper to the Twelfth Five Year Plan has recommended that an additional enrolment of 10 million could be targeted in higher education during the Twelfth Plan period.

(d) and (e) During Eleventh Five Year Plan, several new Central Universities, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Technology, National Institutes of Technology, Polytechnics and other Institutions of Higher learning have been established to increase the GER in higher education. A new scheme has been approved by the Government under which Central assistance on sharing basis shall be provided to the State Governments/ State Universities for setting up of a model degree college in each of the 374 identified educationally backward districts, where Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for higher education is less than the national GER.

Qualifications and competence of academia in the country

†1940. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that country's educational system is witnessing an abysmal condition in terms of qualification and competence in the academia;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a major share of the total expenses incurred for country's educational sector goes to the salary etc.; and

(d) if so, the annual average expenditure and the prospective plan for improvement in academic system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The expenditure on education as percentage of GDP for the year 2009-10 was 3.85%.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

A number of steps have been taken for improvements in the academic system. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2010 has been enacted which envisages significant reforms in the Elementary Education sector. The Act makes it incumbent on Government to provide free and compulsory education to all children of 6-14 years of age; ensure compulsory admission, attendance and completion of elementary education by every child of the age of six to fourteen years.

The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan was launched in March, 2009 with the objective to universalize access to secondary education and to improve its quality. The scheme aims to achieve an enrolment ratio of 75% for class IX and X within five years.

In the higher education sector, Government has taken major initiatives in academic and institutional reforms which mark a paradigm shift in the development of higher education. Legislative proposals have already been introduced in the Parliament to set up a National Commission/Council for Higher Education and Research as an apex body for determination, coordination and maintenance of standards and promotion of higher education and research, as also to have mandatory accreditation system in place of the present voluntary system of accreditation to promote quality.

Under the National Mission in Education through ICT, so far nearly 400 universities have been provided 1 Gbps connectivity or have been configured under the scheme and more than 14,000 colleges have also been provided VPN connectivity.

Irregularities in the name of providing grants to schools

†1941. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI :
SHRI PRABHAT JHA :

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

- (a) whether any case has come to light in which certain amount of money has been taken from schools in the name of providing grants to them with the help of fake letterheads and by uploading fake information on the Ministry's website;
- (b) if so, the action taken for carrying-out the investigation in this regard; and
- (c) the number of cases of fake educational institutions found in various States of the country, during the last three years and the details of action taken in these matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) Yes. Complaints have been received in the Ministry wherein allegations have been made that certain amount of money have been taken from schools in the name of providing grants to them with the help of fake letterheads and by uploading fake information on the Ministry's website.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.