

- (a) whether growth in the number of private institutions of higher education without any quality check has compelled Government to scrutinise this sector;
- (b) if so, the details of fake institutions/Universities; and
- (c) the action taken against such Institutions/Universities for spoiling the fate of students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) University Grants Commission (UGC) has brought out the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2010 to regulate, in an orderly manner, the process of declaration of institutions as deemed to be universities; preventing institutions of dubious quality from being so declared; and, further to maintain quality of higher education imparted by institutions deemed to be universities consistent with the ideals of the concept of a university. State Private Universities are regulated by the UGC as per provisions contained in the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003. These institutions are required to maintain norms and standards prescribed by the UGC and other statutory regulatory bodies concerned.

Further these Institutions are inspected by the UGC with the help of Expert Committees which includes representatives from the Statutory Council(s) concerned. UGC Expert Committees visit the Institutions to assess the fulfillment of minimum criteria in terms of programmes, faculty, infrastructural facilities, financial viability, etc. as laid down by the UGC and other Statutory Bodies concerned. The reports of the Expert Committees are placed before the Commission for consideration and the reports are sent to Institutions concerned for rectification of the defects and compliance.

(b) and (c) University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have identified and notified list of fake universities and unapproved institutions in the country. UGC warns the general public through press releases also about fake universities. List of fake universities is also sent to all the universities/State Governments by UGC for wide publicity in States/Universities regularly. UGC has recently set up a Special Cell to deal with matters relating to functioning of fake universities in the country. The details of fake Universities, action taken against such fake institutions and steps taken to protect and safeguard the students studying in these institutions are also available at UGC website: www.ugc.ac.in and AICTE website: www.aicte-india.org.

Girls' hostels in Maharashtra

879. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether State Government of Maharashtra has sent a proposal for setting up of Girls' hostels in economically backward blocks of the State;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has approved the proposal; and
- (d) if so, the time likely to be taken to release the grants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The proposal received from the State Government of Maharashtra on 9.6.2012 for setting up of Girls' hostels in 43 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) of the State has been approved and Central grant of Rs. 2559.58 lacs has been released to the State Government for construction of 43 Girls' hostels in 43 EBBs of the State.

Educational satellite

880. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has launched educational satellite to facilitate school children and teachers in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the amount sanctioned and released under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) of the Government of India launched exclusive education satellite (EDUSAT-GSAT-3) on 20th September, 2004 with five regional beams and one national beam in extended C band and Ku band with capability to cover and cater to the needs of Education Sector for reaching the areas including rural, remote and hilly regions of our country. The cost for Satellite Band width is at the rate of Rs. 10,000/- per kilo bites per second per year which would be borne by ISRO.

(c) Funds have been allocated to different organizations for installing direct reception system to act as uplink centres from where the experts can teach and also install Direct Receiving System (DRS) — Receive Only Terminals (ROT), Satellite Interactive Terminals (SITs), Wireless on Local Loop Systems to receive signals and to ask questions. For the education of children and training of teachers, elementary school sector, the Distance Education Programme installed 190 DRS at a cost of Rs. 73,75,150/-. Under Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, some States/UTs had proposed setting up of SITs or ROTs for which an amount of Rs. 14739.38 lakh was approved for SITs in five States and Rs. 114 lakh was approved for ROTs in one State for the years 2010-11 and 2011-12.