

**Setting up of Centre for Urban Science and
Progress by IIT, Bombay**

1500. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether IIT, Bombay has decided to set up a Centre for Urban Science and Progress (CUSP) in Brooklyn, New York City in a consortium model jointly with five other world class institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the consortium will focus on researching and developing solutions to complex urban challenges locally and even globally;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a similar Centre will be set up at IIT, Bombay to look at the problems of Indian mega cities in particular; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, IIT-Bombay has joined a consortium of five universities (New York University, Carnegie Mellon, Toronto University and Warwick University and IIT-Bombay) with New York University as the lead partner to bid for setting up an Applied Sciences Research Institute in the New York City. The bid document envisaged setting up a Centre for Urban Science and Progress (CUSP). Subsequently, in the month of April 2012 the consortium bid CUSP was declared by the City official as the second winner in for the bid and was requested to set up CUSP in Brooklyn, New York. Some Industry partners, like IBM, Cisco, Xerox, Siemens, ARUP, have also now joined the consortium to help it achieve its goal.

(c) and (d) Yes, CUSP will explore solutions to several complex urban problems. The focused city for CUSP initially would be New York, but finally, it will also involve itself in solving problems of other global cities like London, Toronto, Mumbai, among others. CUSP will take up such problems in consultation with various city service agencies like transport, housing, communication, databases, health, water, power, etc.

(e) and (f) IIT- Bombay envisages setting up of a research centre with similar theme, with greater focus on Indian cities, at Mumbai in course of time.

Drop-out rate and Gross Enrolment Ratio

1501.DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether drop-out rate of students for Classes I-V, Classes I-VIII and Classes I-X during 2009-10 (Provisional) in the country are 28.86 per cent, 42.39 per cent and 52.76 per cent respectively;

(b) whether Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of students enrolled in higher education in the country as a percentage of the population in the age group 18-23 years was 15.0 in 2009-10;

(c) whether the above could be termed satisfactory;

(d) the measures Government is planning to reduce the drop-out ratio; and

(e) the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission in the above context?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Drop-out rate of students for the Classes I-V, Classes I-VIII and Classes I-X during 2009-10 (Provisional) in the country are 28.86 per cent, 42.39 per cent and 52.76 per cent respectively. Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of students enrolled in higher education in the country as a percentage of the population in the age group 18-23 years is 15.0 in 2009-10 (Provisional).

The incidence of high drop-out rate may be attributed to inadequate school infrastructure and facilities, adverse pupil teacher ratio, children engaged in household or other kinds of work, seasonal migration etc. 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) Government has been making consistent progress to meet the goals of Universal Elementary Education through implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Programme. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009, which became operational with effect from 1st April,