

abroad, for terrestrial transmission and DTH broadcasting (free-to-air) under prescribed conditions". Similar provisions prevail in many other countries.

Strengthening of basic education and research

***171. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission had formulated a scheme for strengthening basic science education and research within the existing university system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the UGC plans to create positions of research scientists at the levels of lecturer, reader and professor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) A Task Force was set up by the Government, for strengthening basic science education and research within the existing university system. The recommendations, *inter-alia*, include to create 1000 positions of research scientists at various levels equivalent to that of Lecturer, Reader and Professor. The report has been given to the University Grants Commission (UGC) for further action.

Monitoring of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

***172. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:**

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether in order to plug the gaps in monitoring Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, he has suggested a new system whereby quality indices of the programme would be monitored every quarter;

(b) whether this would be over and above the existing system of monitoring by forty organization;

(c) if so, the main features thereof; and

(d) to what extent it would be helpful in monitoring Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan?