

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?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) A Quarterly Monitoring System has been in place to review progress of Sarva Shiksha Abhiya, notably in terms of school infrastructure, alternative schooling, girls education, training of teachers and inclusive education. In addition, 41 monitoring institutions report their observations on implementation of the programme in the field.

Joint ventures with China on minerals

***173. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:**

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to strengthen ties in the field of mining, India and China have signed a MoU for joint ventures in other countries and set up a framework to promote cooperation in the field of metallic and non-metallic minerals research;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) the steps being considered to implement the agreement;

(d) whether any areas have been identified for which cooperation and development of minor industry and mineral resources assessment and technology transfer would also be undertaken; and

(e) by when the work on this project is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) seeks to exchange information on mining investment, legislation and exploration; promote cooperation in research, policies and regulations, technical assistance, training programmes and joint ventures in third countries.

(c) It has been agreed that the subordinate organisations like Geological Survey of India, Indian Bureau of Mines and Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of the Ministry of Mines shall identify the projects of mutual interest, with their Chinese counterparts to implement the MOU.

(d) No specific areas have so far been identified to undertake the cooperation for development of minor industry, mineral resources assessment and technology transfer. However, the projects could be