

The decision to implement the Uniform Licence Fee regime for various Telecom Service Providers was taken in the interest of ending arbitrage in the licence fee, ensuring simplicity and transparency, expanding licence fee base and ensuring a level playing field between different services, with due consideration of the revenue receipts of the Government and the growth of Telecom services in the country.

Admission of children from weaker sections under RTE Act

†2274. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unaided private schools have not admitted 25 per cent children belonging to families of weaker sections during the current year as per provisions of section 12 (1) (c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009;

(b) if so, the details therefor and the number of children from weaker sections admitted during current year;

(c) whether any action has been taken against any school for non-compliance of the provisions of the Act;

(d) if so, the number of such schools against whom action has been taken; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Unaided private schools are implementing the provisions of Section 12(1)(c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act. Information regarding the number of children admitted in the various unaided schools of the country in pursuance of section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act is not centrally maintained.

(c) to (e) It is the responsibility of the State Governments to monitor the implementation of the provisions of section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act by schools. Section 31 of the RTE Act provides that the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and the State Commissions for the Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs) shall examine and review the safeguards for rights of the child, inquire into complaints and take necessary steps relating to child rights to free and compulsory education. Section 32 of the RTE Act provides for redressal of grievances by the local authorities.

Upgradation of Aakash tablets

2275. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether it is a fact that Aakash tablet is facing teething problems;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that students are not satisfied with it; and
- (c) if so, the steps the Ministry is taking to upgrade it and test its viability in the market?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) scheme, in a project sanctioned to IIT, Rajasthan 1,00,000 Aakash tablets were envisaged for being procured targeted to students in Higher Technical Education institutions so as to further ascertain technical feedback on its operation and usability. After the launch, initial feedback showed the areas where improvements were required. These were (i) heating of the device (ii) need for longer battery life (iii) need for capacitive instead of resistive touch screen (iv) need for better processor etc. The matter was taken up with the vendor and he agreed to make changes including upgrading the processor from 366 MHz Arm 11 based processor to 700 MHz Arm Cortex A8 processor, improving firmware, replacing the battery of 2100 mAH with a battery of 3200 mAH capacity and replacement of resistive touch screen with capacitive one with no enhancement in cost.

Setting up of Beta Colleges and Meta Universities

2276. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to set up Beta Colleges and Meta Universities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has issued any directions to the State Universities to launch this kind of model; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Meta University has been established in a collaborative framework at Delhi by Jamia Milia Islamia and Delhi University. The main purpose of Meta University is to share learning resources by different universities using latest technologies available in order to enable students to benefit from resources available in different institutions. While the Government has no plan to set up Beta Colleges, Delhi University has started a Meta College, which provides opportunities for students to study different courses/programmes offered by different departments/colleges under Delhi University.