

(b) While the Government does not make any reservation referred to in the question, each minority institution established and administered in exercise of the rights under Article 30(1) of the Constitution may adopt a policy of reservation for the minorities establishing the institution of their choice, provided the relevant Act/Statute/MoA of the institution empower so.

Use of Education Cess

†1262. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether two percent education cess is applicable on income tax, excise duty, customs duty and service tax since the July, 2004, if so, the amount of money received as a result thereof; and

(b) to what extent the money thus receive has been utilized for basic qualitative education and the States implementing the same, the formal and informal education-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A two percent Education Cess was imposed through the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2004 on income tax, excise duty, customs duty and service tax to finance Government's commitment to quality basic education. According to the Receipts Budget 2005-06, the estimated yield from the Cess is as follows:—

RE 2004-05 Rs. 5010 crores

BE 2005-06 Rs. 6975 crores.

Cess proceeds are to be utilised exclusively for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid Day Meal (MDM) programs. The allocation for SSA and MDM during 2005-06 is as follows:-

SSA (BE) Rs. 7156 crores.

MDM (BE) Rs. 3345 crores.

Internet connection to schools and colleges

1263. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide high-speed internet connection to various schools and colleges; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) A Under the "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) @ School" Scheme of the Government of India, launched on 15.12.2004, financial assistance upto Rs. 30,000/- per school is provided to States/UTs for internet facility in the Government and Government Aided Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools.

During 10th Five Year Plan, University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched their "UGC NETWORK RESOURCE CENTRES (UGC-NRC)" scheme under which, assistance is provided for the purchase of Computers and Internet Connectivity in colleges.

Requirement of Colleges/Universities

1264. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing colleges/universities in each States are able to cater to the needs of the population of their respective States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the budget allocation in respect of the higher & technical education is sufficient;

(d) if so, the details of the funds spent in higher & technical education during each of the last 3 years; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve enrolment ratio in higher education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) The present rate of access to higher education in the Country for the relevant age group of 18-24 years of age, is estimated to be 8.97 percent. Apart from availability of institutions, enrolment in higher education also depends on the status of secondary education in each State. The expansion in Open and Distance Learning enables the higher education system to meet the emerging demands.