

- (i) Regular follow up meeting with concerned State Authorities for early handing over of land free of encumbrance.
- (ii) Regular follow up with concerned State Authorities for ensuring secure working environment in the insurgency affected States.
- (iii) Follow up with concerned State/Border Roads Authorities for improving road infrastructure for smooth movement of Railway related machinery and material.
- (iv) 3 battallion of CRPF and Manipur Rifle and Indian Reserve Battallion force engaged for security purpose.

#### **Improvement in higher education**

\*313. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that higher education system in the country is plagued with various challenges such as low Gross Entrolment Ratio (GER) and lack of quality research and education;

(b) if so, whether GER in higher education in the country is 16 per cent which is below the world average of 27 per cent; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps Government proposes to take to improve the higher education system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) to (c) The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of students enrolled in higher education in the country as a percentage of population in the age group of 18-23 years has increased from 13.7% in 2008-09 to 18.8 % (provisional) in 2010-11, as compared to estimated world average of 29% during the year 2009-10 as per the Global Education Digest (2012) published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

Education reforms are a continuous process and the Government seeks to carry them forward through expansion, inclusion and rapid improvement in quality through institutional and policy reforms and by enhancing public spending and creating an enabling environment for private section participation towards imparting quality education. National Knowledge Commission had recommended a series of initiatives

for expansion, excellence and greater access in Higher Education covering regulation, accreditation, governance, curriculum, research, faculty development, financing, asset management and affirmative actions. Government has already taken various legislative initiatives including making accreditation mandatory for all higher educational institutions to improve quality of higher education.

Government has also opened new institutions of higher learning including- 16 Central Universities, 7 new Indian Institutes of Management, 8 new Indian Institutes of Technology, 20 Indian Institutes of Information Technology under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode and 10 new National Institutes of Technology.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) implements various schemes for improving quality of higher education, such as Universities with Potential for Excellence, Colleges with Potential for Excellence, Special Assistance Programme, Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Science and Technology, Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Humanities and Social Sciences, Fellowship Programmes for Research students as well as orientation and refresher programmes for newly appointed and in-service teachers through its Academic Staff Colleges.

Government has also launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (ICT), to leverage the potential of ICT, in teaching and learning process for the benefit of all the learners in higher education institutions in any time any where mode with a budget of ₹ 4612 crore.

#### **Construction of Model, Adarsh and World-class stations**

\*314. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the targets for construction of Model stations, Adarsh stations, and World-class stations during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) how many Model Stations, Adarsh Stations and World-class Stations have actually been constructed during the last three years;
- (c) whether the targets could not be achieved;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and efforts made to achieve them; and