

- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Vocational Education is not included in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

(d) and (e) Under the revised Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) Scheme of Vocationalisation of Higher Secondary Education, financial assistance is provided to Government Higher Secondary Schools/Government aided Higher Secondary Schools/Private Unaided Schools/NGOs for setting up and operating Vocational education Programmes. No proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra under the Scheme.

**Establishment of medical college under Central University, Koraput**

2445. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for establishment of a medical college under the Central University, Koraput; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for setting up of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The Central University of Odisha had submitted a proposal for setting up a Medical College in Koraput, which could not be considered favourably as the Eleventh Five Year Plan Scheme did not include establishment of medical and engineering colleges in the new Central Universities. The Twelfth Plan has not been finalised.

**Standard of education**

†2446. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a decline in educational standards day-by-day across the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the efforts being made by Government to improve the standard of education and the details of the works done so far;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (d) whether Government has failed to improve the standard of education; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Improvement in educational standards is a continuous process and the Twelfth Five Year Plan seeks to carry forward the Government's efforts towards a rapid improvement in quality through institutional and policy reforms and by enhancing public spending.

(c) to (e) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, which has come into force *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2010, envisages significant reforms in the Elementary Education sector. The Act makes it incumbent on the Government to provide free and compulsory education to all children of 6-14 years of age; to ensure compulsory admission, attendance and completion of elementary education by every child of the age of six to fourteen years. The Act stipulates that the State needs to provide infrastructure including school buildings, trained teaching staff and learning equipment as well as to ensure good quality elementary education according to the standards and norms specified in the Act.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) follows a holistic approach to improve the quality of elementary education, and subject to certain norms, provides for the opening of new primary schools, the upgradation of primary schools to upper primary schools, the construction of school buildings, the construction of additional classrooms, the recruitment of additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, the in-service training of the teachers and training of untrained teachers, the provision of text books, learning enhancement programmes, school and teacher grants and regular academic support to the schools through Block Resource Centres and Cluster Resource Centres to improve the quality of classroom practices.

The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan was launched in March, 2009 with the objective to universalize access to secondary education and to improve its quality. The scheme aims to achieve an enrolment ratio of 75% for class IX and X within five years by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation, to improve the quality of education imparted at secondary level through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, to remove gender, socio-economic and disability barriers and ensure universal access to secondary level education by 2017.

The CBSE has taken a number of steps for educational reforms which includes no Class X Board examination *w.e.f.* 2011 for students studying in the CBSE's Senior Secondary Schools and who do not wish to move out of the CBSE system after Class X. The Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation has been strengthened in all the CBSE affiliated schools *w.e.f.* October, 2009 in Class IX. A new Grading System has been introduced at Secondary School Level (for Class IX and X) effective from 2009-10 academic sessions.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has also taken a number of steps and has written to all universities to implement academic reforms including the introduction of a semester system, a choice based credit system, curriculum development, and reforms in admission procedures, examination and evaluation systems. The UGC has also notified regulations specifying that qualifying the National Eligibility Test (NET) or the State-Level Eligibility Test (SLET) shall be the minimum eligibility criteria for an appointment as Assistant Professor with exemption to those who have obtained a Ph.D degree.

The Government has already introduced Bills in the Parliament which include proposals for the prohibition of unfair practices in technical educational institutions, medical educational institutions and universities; mandatory accreditation of higher educational institutions; educational tribunals for adjudication of disputes; and legislation to regulate entry and operation of foreign educational institutions.

#### **Setting up of university in Srirangapatnam, Karnataka**

2447. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is having a proposal for setting up of five universities across the country; and

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that one of them would be established at Srirangapatnam in Karnataka and it would be named after Tipu Sultan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Ministry of Minority Affairs has informed us that it has constituted a committee to examine the setting up of five minority universities. The Terms of Reference of the committee are;

(i) To examine the possibility of setting up of five universities;