

Department to meet the additional cost of Rs. 75200.00 lakh (arising due to withdrawal of subsidy from LPG) from the existing budget provision of the Scheme for 2012-13. The Ministry of Finance has accorded 'in-principle' concurrence to the above proposal.

**Scheme for distribution of Aakash tablet to poor
SC/ST students in Bihar**

†4131. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the scheme Government is formulating to distribute Aakash tablet among students in Bihar;
- (b) whether any time-frame has been fixed therefor and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a proposal to provide the same free of cost to the poor students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and Other Backward Classes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) Sir, At present, under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) scheme, IIT Bombay is doing a project for achieving the following deliverables after acquiring the Low Cost Access-cum-computing Devices (LCADs) for teacher empowerment:

- (i) Acquisition and testing of LCADs; and
- (ii) Hardware and software optimization of LCADs.

In the first phase 1,00,000 tablets are distributed for the purpose of testing by users all over India in different climatic and usage conditions. Since these tablets are for the purpose of testing and teacher empowerment, they would not be distributed to the students in the first phase. The devices are getting tested and once the production capacities are built up, norms for the distribution of the tablets and their beneficiaries will be developed.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.