

financial assistance for the introduction of career oriented courses in Universities and Colleges.

The Deemed-to-be Universities/Private Universities, under the aegis of which the private engineering colleges are functioning, are monitored by the UGC to ensure quality education and fulfillment of criteria of the UGC and other Statutory Councils by these Universities. These Universities are regularly inspected by the UGC in consultation with relevant Statutory Councils. In order to maintain quality of higher education, imparted by Deemed to be Universities, the UGC has notified the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2010. The UGC has laid down academic standards in private universities through the UGC (Establishment and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003. A report of such inspections is also available at www.ugc.ac.in.

(c) The AICTE has a programme of conducting Finishing Schools with the objective of enhancing the employability of engineering graduates and to make available more manpower with enhanced soft skills. Under the scheme, the AICTE is running an Employability Enhancement Training Programme (EETP) with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to train students of Electronics and Communications Engineering in the state-of-the-art training centres of BSNL. Keeping in view the requirements of Industry and to enhance the employability of graduates, the AICTE has also developed the model curriculum for Management, Pharmacy, Architecture, and Town Planning Courses at the Degree level and for Engineering courses at the Diploma level.

Broadcast of 'Gyanvani' programme from Guwahati

4143. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Gyanvani' programme broadcast from Guwahati is stopped since 2011;

(b) whether the office of 'Gyanvani' remained abandoned at Housefed Complex in Guwahati since long;

(c) if so, the reason therefor;

(d) whether Ministry has taken any step to resume broadcast 'Gyanvani' from Guwahati region; and

- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) As per the information furnished by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), which broadcasts 'Gyanvani', due to a major power supply problem at the All India Radio (AIR) Complex Guwahati, its FM Transmitter broke down, as a result the broadcast of 'Gyanvani' programme stopped from Guwahati *w.e.f.* 30.09.2011. However, the office of 'Gyanvani', Guwahati is still functional.

(d) and (e) As per the information furnished by the Indira Gandhi National Open University, the University has decided to replace the damaged FM Transmitter to resume the broadcast. The University, being an autonomous body, has the authority to take an appropriate decision in such administrative matters.

Connecting educational institutions with broadband network

4144. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any initiative to connect all the educational institutions in the country with a broadband network;
- (b) if so, the details of the status of the project; and
- (c) the services Government plans to deliver using the network along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) aims to extend computer infrastructure and connectivity to over 25000 + colleges and 2000 polytechnics in the country including all the 419 Universities/Deemed Universities and Institutions of National Importance. As on 31.03.2013, 400 universities and nearly 20117, colleges in the country have been connected.

(c) There are various components of the NMEICT Mission which include the provision of e-books and e-journals free to the learners, support for the generation of e-contents for Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate level, the creation of web and video courses under NPTEL (National programme in Technology Enhanced Learning)