

- (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)

in all branches of engineering and physical sciences, development of virtual laboratory, the development of vocational education modules, talk to a teacher, etc. By extending computer infrastructure and connectivity, the reach of these facilities are ensured to the academic community.

**Improving National Literacy with the help of
mobile phones and TVs**

4145. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of mobile phones and massive penetration of TV have opened up a whole new world of possibility for Indians across the country;

(b) whether more than 60 lakh people appeared for the National Literacy Learner's Assessment and Certification (NLLAC) exam; and

(c) what steps Government is taking to make mobile phones and TVs cheaper which will help in national literacy in the wake of 60 lakh people taking the above exam?

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

(b) Since the first assessment conducted by the National Literacy Mission Authority in collaboration with the National Institute of Open Schooling in August, 2010, 2,98,72,379 adult learners are reported to have appeared till 31.03.2013.

(c) Under Saakshar Bharat, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at imparting literacy to non-literate adults, transacting teaching and learning of functional literacy through the medium of mobile phones and TVs is not envisaged so far.

Implementation of Mid-Day-Meal Scheme

†4146. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has been implementing a scheme namely Mid-Day-Meal under nutrition-based programme;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.