

The EEPs/MOUs have resulted in several joint research programmes between India and different countries, collaborations for skill development and vocational education, leadership development, exchange of students/ scholars/ researchers/ faculty etc. Institution-to-institution collaborations have increased substantially after the signing of EEPs/MOUs with different countries.

UGC grants to colleges

†92. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued grants-in-aid to one college namely Patel Memorial National College of Patiala on the basis of fake documents and to another college of Varanasi namely Shri Baldev PG College even without any application from them;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the officers found responsible for the wrong issuance of grants-in-aid; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to avoid such kind of incidence in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes Sir. As per the information received from the University Grants Commission (UGC), it has made certain payments to Patel Memorial National College of Patiala, and Shri Baldev PG College Varanasi that appear to be irregular.

(b) and (c) An enquiry committee headed by Dr. S. Satyam, Retired Secretary, Govt, of India has been constituted by UGC to look into the matter, the findings of which are awaited. Simultaneously a FIR has been lodged in Indraprastha Estate Police Station. The responsibility for these lapses can be fixed only after the enquiry committee submits its report.

(d) As informed by UGC, certain preventive measures have already been taken by it such as issuing of sanction letters in triplicate along with Grant-in-aid bill to the bank. One copy of the sanction letter is retained by the bank for its

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

record, the second copy is forwarded to recipient institutions along with the covering letter of the concerned bank and the third copy is returned to the UGC along with the payment voucher for record.

Scheme for elementary education

93. DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the different schemes for elementary education run by different Ministries;

(b) whether Government plans to reduce the total number of schemes by merging smaller interventions with the appropriate larger schemes and converging the schemes run by different Ministries to ensure better implementation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the bottlenecks in the process of availability of funds for implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), a flagship programme of the Government of India, is being implemented throughout the country for the universalisation of elementary education in the age group of 6-14 years. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which became operative w.e.f. 01.04.2010, provides for free and compulsory education to all children in the 14 age group in a neighbourhood school till the completion of elementary education.

In consultation with the Ministry of Finance, the Planning Commission has indicated a Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) of Rs. 1,92,726 crore for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme for the Twelfth Five Year Plan period.

Funds for Universal Elementary Education

94. DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has estimated the resource requirement for Universal Elementary Education for the Twelfth Five Year Plan;