

the Council receives any complaint with respect to the availability of the infrastructure and faculty in the existing institutions, it ascertains the same through surprise visits by a Committee of the experts and takes necessary punitive action as per the provision of Approval Process Handbook and notified norms and standards. In order to address the issue of shortage of qualified faculty and also to facilitate the students to pursue their higher study leading to award of M.Tech degree the AICTE has also granted permission to start M.Tech Programme in second shift in the existing institutions.

In case of the ITIs, there is no shortage of tools and equipments. However, there are vacancies of Principals and instructors in these ITIs. There is also shortage of trained instructors. Considering an average trainee-instructor ratio of 20:1, Government and Private ITIs require about 70, 000 qualified instructors. Presently, only 15% out of these 70,000 instructors are trained instructors. The performance evaluation studies of the ITIs providing training under the Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) carried out by the Quality Council of India (QCI) have shown that placement rate in the ITIs which have been upgraded recently under Centrally Funded Scheme, has increased to 80 to 99 per cent.

Kasturba Gandhi Awasiya Balika Vidyalayas

†3526. CHAUDHARY MUNABBAR SALEEM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the places in the Muslim dominated areas of the country where residential Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas were opened for Muslim girls in the country, State-wise and district-wise;

(b) the schemes being run by the Government to remove backwardness of the Muslim community and to bring improvement in easy access to education for Muslim girls; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) 544 Kasturba Gandhi Balika

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Vidyalayas (KGBVs) have been sanctioned in 71 Muslim concentration districts in the country whose state-wise, district-wise and block-wise position is given in the Annexures [See Appendix 228 Annexure No. 40].

The (KGBVs) are opened in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) identified as those with rural female literacy below the national average.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, a national flagship programme for universalisation of elementary education provides for availability of a school within a radius of 1 km of each habitation at primary level and 3 kms at upper primary level which benefits all sections of society including . Muslim girls.

In addition, the Girls' Hostel Scheme envisages construction of a hostel with a capacity of 100 girls each in EBBs and targets SC, ST, OBC, Minority and BPL girl students in the age group of 14-18 years studying in classes IX to XII. Students passing out of KGBV are given preference in admission in these hostels.

Besides, the Scheme for Infrastructure Development of Private Aided/Unaided Minority Institution (IDMI) provides for augmenting and strengthening school infrastructure in minority schools in order to expand facilities for formal education to children of minority communities. Under the Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrasas (SPQEM), financial assistance is provided to Madrasas who opt for the scheme, to introduce modern subjects like Science, Maths, Social-Studies and English in their curriculum.

Closure of engineering colleges in West Bengal

3527. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) the number of engineering institutions in the country along with the details such as the number of seats, the number of students and the courses offered therein, State-wise;

(b) the number and details of engineering colleges which were closed down in West Bengal in the last four years;