

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Some Private Universities are running courses outside their territorial jurisdiction and the UGC has clarified in its advertisement that Private Universities should confine their activities to their territorial jurisdiction. Some of the Universities which have closed down their off-campus centre(s) established outside their territorial jurisdiction after the intervention of UGC are (i) The Goa off-campus of the Himgiri Zee University, Dehradun, Uttarakhand (ii) The Bangalore, Hyderabad and Goa off-campus of the ICFAI University, Dehradun, Uttarakhand and (iii) The Gurgaon and Rajahmundry (Andhra Pradesh) off-campus of the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

Employability of Indian graduates

680. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's response to the fact that about two-thirds of the Indian graduates are unemployable; and

(b) what are the measures the Ministry would like to adopt to overcome this crisis in higher education in cooperation with the UGC and AICTE?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Universities use a common curriculum that is continuously revised by experts. This curriculum is expected to develop core subject specific skills, analytical reasoning skills and overall personality development. However the curriculum is generic for a specialization and does not cater to any specific industry needs. At present, specific industry skills are acquired either through specific skill courses or through on the job experience.

While some bodies like NASSCOM, Ernst and Young, Mckinsey have conducted surveys in specific sectors, where out of the applications received, the percentage of employability was estimated against the number actually employed from amongst the applications received for those job positions in the specific sectors. These surveys can in no way assume that the employability figures would be the same for all students *vis-à-vis* all the sectors. Hence a generic statement like the one mentioned in part (a) of the Question above needs to be validated and empirically tested.

(b) The Universities and regulatory bodies such as the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) are striving to constantly enhance the employability of graduates in the higher education

system. An increased emphasis has been placed on academia-industry inter-action to ensure that academic institutions are sensitized to the needs and expectations of employers.

The AICTE has also notified its Grant of Approval for conducting Vocational Education Programme, Community College courses and Skill Knowledge Providers under the National Vocational Education Qualifications Framework (NVEQF) Regulations, 2012. The above skill framework addresses the problems of skilled manpower and youth unemployment. To enhance the employability of engineering students, the AICTE also implements various schemes such as Finishing Schools for students, Innovation Programme schemes etc.

The UGC has also notified a Bachelor of Vocation degree (B.Voc). The framework provides for multiple pathways and exit options after every certificate level so that a student can opt to drop out at any certificate level and be employed at a certain job role within a sector and come back into education if he/she so desires. The UGC is implementing a scheme of Career Oriented Courses in Universities and Colleges under which it provides financial assistance to universities/Colleges for the introduction of career oriented courses at the certificate/diploma/advance diploma levels, which run concurrently with conventional degree courses like the Bachelors of Arts/Science/Commerce etc.

Model Schools at block level

681. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to set up Model Schools at block level in the country;
- (b) if so, the salient features of these schools; and
- (c) whether Government would upgrade the existing schools or new schools would be opened under this scheme?

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

(b) The Government has decided to set up 6,000 model schools at the rate of one school per block as benchmark of excellence. Out of these, 3,500 schools are to set up through the respective State/UT Government in Educationally Backward