

training to enhance the employability of a person who is either pursuing his or her graduation/diploma in any technical or non-technical stream or has discontinued their pursuit of a degree or diploma course to increase their employability.

Hunger strike by IIT, Kharagpur faculty

1772. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the faculty of IIT, Kharagpur is going on hunger strike;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to redress the grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Members of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, Teachers' Association were on a token hunger strike on 17.07.2013 from 9.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. after taking vacation leave for that day to agitate about the issue relating to the appointment of a regular Director of the Institute. The regular Director has since taken charge on 27.07.2013 (AN).

Teaching standards in schools

1773. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has shown concern over the poor teaching standards in schools in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has contemplated any plan to improve the teaching standards in schools;