

Research (INSPIRE), the increase in the outlay for science and technology sector in successive Five Year Plans, the grant of better pay scales to scientists as per the 6th Pay Commission, the creation of additional posts in Scientist 'H' grade, enhancement in the fellowship emoluments etc. The "brain drain" phenomenon is clearly declining.

Exchange of faculty and students with foreign universities

540. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain foreign universities have entered into an agreement with their Indian counterparts for exchange of faculty members and students;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) how far this has enhanced the development of students and the course content?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) Indian Universities and Institutions of higher learning are entering into agreements with foreign Universities that also include agreements for exchange of faculty members and students. The Indian Universities and Institutions are free to enter into agreements for collaboration with their counterparts in other countries. The Ministry of Human Resource Development, through an appropriate policy framework as well as by enhancing bilateral relations with foreign countries, strives to create a conducive atmosphere for Indian institutions to tie up with their foreign counterparts and vice versa. Such arrangements are aimed at achieving quality education including refinement in teaching and learning methods.

**Setting up of Regional Centre of Indira Gandhi
National Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh**

541. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh has considerable percentage of tribal population;
- (b) if so, whether there is every justification for setting up of a Regional

Centre of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University so as to address the educational needs of tribals in the State;

(c) whether any efforts have been made by the Ministry for setting up of Regional Centre in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) As per the 2001 Census, the Scheduled Tribes population constitutes 6.6% of the total population of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (e) The Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU), Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh was established by the IGNTU Act, 2007 with a view to provide avenues of higher education and research facilities, primarily for the tribal population of India. The jurisdiction of the University extends to the whole country. The University is an autonomous organization and is empowered in terms of the IGNTU Act, 2007 to establish such number of Regional Centres in various tribal areas of the country as is, in the opinion of the University, necessary for the furtherance of its objects. However, as a matter of policy, it has been decided that the University should first stabilize its operations at its main Campus in Amarkantak before proposals for setting up of new Centres of the University can be considered.

Universalisation of Secondary Education Scheme

542. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of Universalisation of Secondary Education Scheme along with the goals set up under it;

(b) the number of new schools opened, existing schools strengthened and post of teachers sanctioned since inception of the scheme; and

(c) the status of implementation of the scheme in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), a centrally sponsored scheme has been launched in 2009 with