

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

an aim to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons at secondary stage, while ensuring equity. The objective of the scheme is to provide a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation to ensure universal access to secondary level education by 2017, and universal retention by 2020.

(b) Since the inception of the RMSA, 8175 new secondary schools (classes IX-X) have been opened; the strengthening of 34311 existing secondary schools has been approved and 99577 posts of teachers have been sanctioned.

(c) Under the RMSA in the State of Jharkhand, a total of 894 new secondary schools have been sanctioned till 2012-13; a total of 657 of these have become functional so far. Similarly, 572 existing secondary schools were approved for strengthening under the RMSA; out of these the tendering process has been started in 552 schools and the tendering process for civil works is complete in 20 schools.

Subsidised LPG cylinders for MDMS

543. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the Ministry is planning to tackle the situation arising out of reduction in the number of LPG cylinders for Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (MDMS);

(b) the amount the Ministry is spending on fuel for Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (MDMS);

(c) whether any request has been sent to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for exempting Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (MDMS) from the LPG cylinder cap;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reply received from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) On the request of the MHRD, the Ministry of Finance has accorded an 'in-principle' approval to meet the additional financial liability arising out of the withdrawal of the subsidy on LPG cylinders, from the existing budgetary provisions of the MHRD for the MDMS for the current year.