

Opening up of JSS

†394. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any restriction on opening up of new Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) in States;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and when this restriction was imposed;
- (c) whether the norms would be relaxed regarding opening up of JSS in the remote rural areas of the hilly States; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no restriction on opening up of new Jan Shikshan Sansthans in States. During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, 73 new JSSs were sanctioned. But in the Twelfth Five Year Plan, the plan outlay under the Scheme is adequate only to financially support the JSSs set up so far.

- (c) Norms are not the limiting/impeding factor in the way of setting up of new JSSs. Relaxation of norms is, therefore, neither called for nor contemplated.
- (d) Does not arise.

Four years degree courses in DU

†395. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the duration of degree courses in Delhi University (DU) has been extended to four years while the same is of three years in other universities of the country;
- (b) the total number of universities in the country and the number of universities where degree course is of four years duration;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the students of other universities will have to face a lot of difficulty due to this decision of DU;
- (d) if so, whether Government would initiate to revert this decision of DU; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.