

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir. The vast majority of the universities in the country offer 3 year undergraduate programmes while Delhi University offers four year undergraduate programmes.

(b) As per the All India Survey on Higher Education (2010-11), the total number of the universities in the country including deemed universities is 621. Data on courses offered by each university is not maintained centrally.

(c) to (e) University Grants Commission (UGC), which is mandated to coordinate, determine and maintain the standards of higher education, has informed the Government that it has not received any representation from the students of other universities facing difficulties due to the decision of the Delhi University for extending the duration of the degree course from 3 years to 4 years.

The universities, including Delhi University, are autonomous bodies which are governed by their respective Act, Statutes and Ordinances. The universities, with the approval of their Statutory bodies, are empowered to take all academic decisions including about the duration of courses subject to following the UGC Regulations on the subject. The UGC (Minimum Standards of Instruction for the Grant of First Degree through Formal Education) Regulations, 2003 *inter-alia* provides for a first degree programme of not less than three years duration. Delhi University students who do not wish to pursue a four year honours degree may graduate with a regular degree after three years.

Opening of model degree colleges

396. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open model degree colleges in the country including Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such colleges being opened in the country under the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan, State-wise?

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

(b) and (c) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) with Central-State funding was launched in February, 2010 to set up one Model Degree College in each of the 374 Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs) in the country. Under the CSS, out

of the 155 proposals, 86 proposals were approved, 33 were rejected and 36 were under process. With the launch of the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), the earlier CSS has been subsumed under RUSA. The RUSA Project Approval Board in its first meeting had approved 56 new Model Degree Colleges in the States of Uttar Pradesh (29 in number), Andhra Pradesh (7 in number), Karnataka (8 in number), Kerala (4 in number) and Odisha (8 in number).

Homeschooling in RTEA

397. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Right to Education Act (RTEA) forbids homeschooling;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what steps Government is contemplating to allow homeschooling, so as to give freedom of choice to children and their parents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 was amended *vide* the RTE Amendment Act of 2012 to include the provision that a child with 'severe disabilities' and a child with 'multiple disabilities' shall also have the right to opt for home based education. Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), which is a programme to universalize elementary education for all children from 6-14 years of age, home based education is offered as an option for children with severe and/or multiple disabilities. In 2013-14, 1.97 lakh children are being supported for home based education under the SSA.

Registration under Copyright Act

†398. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the writings of certain authors have been registered under the Copyright Act in the concerned office in Delhi during the last two years;
- (b) if so, the number of writings registered during the last two years and the current year, till date along with the number of those which are lying pending for registration; and
- (c) the details of time-frame fixed for the registration of the writings?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.