

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) are opened primarily to cater to the educational needs of the wards of transferable Central Government employees including Defence personnel on receipt of the proposal in prescribed proforma from various Ministries/State/UT Governments, thereby committing resources for setting up a new KV as well as on the availability of necessary sanction of the Government of India. As per prescribed norms for the opening of new KVs under Civil/Defence sector, the sponsoring agency is liable to provide suitable and sufficient rent free temporary accommodation for setting up of a newly sanctioned KVs to make the school functional till the construction of permanent Vidyalaya building by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) on the land to be provided by the sponsoring agency, free of cost, to KVS.

The Navodaya Vidyalayas Scheme envisages setting up one Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) in each district of the country to bring out the best of rural talent. The opening of new Navodaya Vidyalayas is based on an offer from the State Government to provide around 30 acres of suitable land free of cost, alongwith sufficient temporary accommodation to run the school till the completion of a permanent Vidyalaya building and subject to the sanction of the competent authority and availability of funds. Out of 35 districts in Maharashtra, JNVs have been sanctioned in 32 districts.

As of now, there is no proposal pending with the Government to open up new KV and JNV in Maharashtra.

Statutory status to educational institutions

2658. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to enact laws to provide statutory status to some elite educational institutions to award professional degrees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are some Central higher educational institutions where hundreds of students inspite of completing their programmes could not be awarded degrees because there was no enabling legislation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to enact laws to provide statutory status to Schools of Planning and Architecture (SPAs) at Delhi, Bhopal and Vijayawada and Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) at Gwalior, Allahabad, Kancheepuram and Jabalpur so that SPAs at Bhopal and Vijayawada and

Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing (IIITD and M), Kancheepuram are able to award degrees to their graduates.

(c) and (d) The Schools of Planning and Architecture (SPA) Bhopal and Vijayawada were set up in the year 2008-2009. Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing (IIITD and M), Kancheepuram was set up in the year 2007. 692 Students who have completed their programmes from these institutes till 2014 have to be awarded degrees. To confer degrees to graduates, the Institute has to be so authorized under an Act of the Parliament or should be declared a Deemed to be University by Central Government on the recommendations of University Grants Commission (UGC) under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956. The Ministry has initiated the process of declaring these Institutes as "Institutions of National Importance" through an act of the Parliament. Efforts are also afoot to declare SPA Bhopal & SPA Vijayawada as Off-Campus centres of SPA Delhi and Indian Institute of Information Technology Design and Manufacturing (IIITD&M), Kancheepuram as off campus centre of Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Gwalior so that the degree could be awarded to the students who have graduated from these institutes.

National learning standards at elementary level

2659. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to develop national learning standards at the elementary level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), the academic authority under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 has developed learning indicators for each class in respect of various subjects such as English, Hindi, Urdu, Maths, Environmental Science (EVS), Science, Social Science and Arts education at elementary level, which have been shared with all State/UT Governments for implementation.

Benefit of SSA to Muslims

2660. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALLYAWI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) being carried out by Government in the country;