

**New Education Policy**

47. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to adopt a New Education Policy; and
- (b) if so, the main objectives thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Policy on Education 1986, as amended in 1992, has been the guiding document for the policies of the Central Government in the education sector. In the last twenty years, the education scenario has seen a monumental change with the emergence of several new paradigms like rights based approach to elementary education, the endeavour to extend universalization to secondary education, reshape the higher education scenario and its impact on the innovation environment and providing an impetus to skill development through vocational education in the context of the emergence of new technologies in a rapidly expanding economy placed in a globalised environment.

The Government proposes to formulate a New Education Policy aimed at meeting the challenges posed by lack of quality, research and innovation in our educational institutions.

**Increasing GER in educationally backward districts**

48. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs) where Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education is not at par with the national average of enrolment in higher education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to increase GER in these EBDs; and
- (c) the details of fund spent in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission (UGC), through an Expert Committee identified 374 districts in the country where the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education was lower than the national average on the basis of the 2001 census. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) to set up one Model Degree College (MDC) in each of the identified 374 Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs) was launched by the Government which was subsumed under the new CSS namely Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) in 2013.