

Support to women's study centres in universities

42. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to promote and financially support women's study centres in all universities across the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. (DR.) RAM SHANKAR KATHERIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that it is implementing a scheme titled "Development of Women's Studies in Indian Universities and Colleges" for promoting and financially supporting Women's Studies Centres in Universities across the country. The guidelines of this scheme are at http://www.ugc.ac.in/pdf/news/1349397_wsxiplan.pdf. UGC has been promoting, strengthening and giving direction to Women's Studies programme since the VIIth Plan period and 156 women's studies centres are in existence in various universities and colleges - 81 in Universities and 75 in Colleges.

Illiteracy among physically challenged persons

43. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illiteracy is rampant among physically challenged children and adults in Maharashtra and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government has taken or proposes to take to make them literate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) and (b) As per Census, 2001, around 1,11,05,537 disabled persons were illiterates out of a total 2,19,06,769 disabled population in the country. As per Census 2001, 6,63,672 disabled illiterates out of a total 15,69,582 disabled population have been reported in Maharashtra. The Census 2011 has not released the corresponding figures. A statement indicating State/UT-wise number of disabled literates and illiterates, as per Census 2001, is given Statement (*See below*).