

class centres were set up in the State of Tamil Nadu *i.e.* Coimbatore and Madurai. At a later stage one more centre was set up in Chennai. Initially, under the scheme, date for submission of the application form was 27.10.2014 which was extended to 04.11.2014.

(c) The application form provides options for contact class centres. Tamil Nadu has three cities to opt for contact class centre.

Model degree colleges in minority districts

†3187. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open model degree colleges in Minority dominated districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of districts in Bihar where Government plans to open such degree colleges; and

(d) the amount of fund granted for the purpose, so far?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the 11th Plan, the Central Government had launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for opening of Model Degree Colleges (MDC) in 374 districts identified as Educationally Backward Districts (EBD) of which, 64 are Minority Concentrated Districts (MCD) as notified by the Ministry of Minority Affairs. This scheme has now been subsumed under the new CSS of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) launched by the Central Government for reforming state higher education sector.

(c) In Bihar, 25 districts have been identified as EBDs out of which 7 are MCDs *viz.*, Araria, Darbhanga, Katihar, Kishanganj, Pashchim Champaran, Purnia and Sitamarhi. Under RUSA, the State Government of Bihar has submitted its State Higher Education Plan (SHEP), wherein it has proposed the setting up of 12 MDCs.

(d) No funds have been released to the State of Bihar for this purpose so far.

Making Sanskrit compulsory in Kendriya Vidyalayas

3188. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how the Ministry justifies making Sanskrit as a compulsory third language in Kendriya Vidyalayas; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.