

The following are salient features of the MoU—

- (i) Collaboration and cooperation with the Open Polytechnic New Zealand (OPNZ) to strengthen distance education.
- (ii) Mutual cooperation in the field of flexible learning.
- (iii) Promotion of vocational and technical education.
- (c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration.

#### **Setting up of IIIT at Nagpur**

677. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has approved the setting up of an Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at the site selected and proposed in Nagpur;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and time-frame proposed; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) The Site Selection Committee (SSC) has submitted its report regarding the proposed site of the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Nagpur, Maharashtra. The proposal for establishment of IIIT will be considered by the Council of IIITs in due course.

- (c) Does not arise.

#### **Increase in seats in engineering colleges**

678. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has proposed any measures to increase the number of seats in various streams of engineering colleges;
- (b) whether there has been any proposal to set up new engineering colleges; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the regulator of technical education, grants approval to increase the number of seats in AICTE approved engineering institutions on the request of