

(c) the steps taken by Government to safeguard the interest of students undergoing their studies in both Indian and foreign universities from this recognition problem;

(d) whether UGC and other apex educational bodies have support from Government and universities abroad to solve the problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the rules and regulations laid for enhancement of quality of education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (e) The universities are academic autonomous bodies and function as per the provisions contained in their Acts, Statutes and Ordinances. The universities, by virtue of the provisions in their Acts are empowered to award the degrees and also to recognize the degrees awarded by other universities.

There are Statutory Regulatory Bodies for coordination and determination of standards of education in their fields, for example, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in technical education.

National Council for Teachers Education (NCTE) for teacher education and University Grants Commission (UGC) for general higher education. These Regulatory Bodies have framed the Regulations for maintenance of the standards of education in their concerned fields.

Usually, the universities recognize the degrees awarded by other universities on the basis of the accreditation status of the university that awarded the degree or the programme concerned.

The Government of India/ Ministry of HRD does not maintain the data of Indian Universities recognized by the Universities abroad.

Reduction of funds for higher education

1961. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reduced the funds for higher education for the remaining period of 2014-15;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the cuts in Government funds for higher education would hit IITs worst;

(d) if so, the response of Government thereto;

(e) whether Government has also revised allocation for Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan – which seeks to improve overall quality of higher education in the country; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) The total allocation for the Department of Higher Education under BE-2014-15 was ₹ 27656 crore, which has been reduced to ₹ 23,700 crore under RE-2014-15. The allocations for the existing IITs has been reduced from ₹ 4,076.02 crore under BE-2014-15 to ₹ 3923.63 crore under RE-2014-15. There has been no reduction in allocations for existing IIMs. The budget for new IITs and IIMs, as announced by Union Finance Minister in July, 2014, has been reduced from ₹ 500 crore to ₹ 65 crore.

(c) No, Sir. As against a total budgetary cut of 14.30% for the Department of Higher Education, the budgetary cut for the IITs is 3.74%.

(d) No, Sir. The allocation for the remaining part of Financial Year 2014-15 has been suitably prioritized to ensure that the new IITs do not suffer for want of funds.

(e) and (f) 2014-15 was the first full financial year since rollout of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA). Accordingly, most of the states were involved in the preparation of State Higher Education Plans (SHEPs). It was for this reason that the Budget Estimate was reduced in the RE-2014-15.

Funds for meals of students of JNVs

1962. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted the inadequate funds allocated for meals of students studying in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs);

(b) the funds presently allocated per student in JNVs; and

(c) whether Government is planning to revise the funds?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The mess expenses for students in the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) are reviewed periodically keeping in view all relevant aspects. Since the Vidyalayas are procuring food items locally on tender basis and also with the cooperation of District Administration, it has been possible for the Vidyalayas to provide proper diet to the children within the sanctioned budget. The