

and science are available on-line under National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL). E-content for 8 undergraduate subjects has also been generated by the Consortium of Educational Communication (CEC) in collaboration with its Media Centers. Over 126 Virtual Labs in 9 Engineering & Science disciplines, comprising more than 770 experiments are currently ready for use and available. 1500 Spoken Tutorials are available on line. A large number of courses for design have also been created. Under the NMEICT scheme, 1 Gbps Optical Fibre connectivity to 403 universities/ university level institutions in the country including Maharashtra State has also been provided. Details about the NMEICT Scheme are available at [www.nmeict.ac.in](http://www.nmeict.ac.in).

### **Traditional skill institutions**

1972. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the stand of the Ministry over the traditional skill institutions and the details of these institutions;

(b) the steps taken by the Ministry over these institutions as a part of education; and

(c) whether any more work is needed to tackle the need of the country to give livelihood and also to protect the traditional profession?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) The Community College Scheme of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and University Grant Commission (UGC) takes care of skills as well as traditional skills in the local area of the institutions. At present, 107 AICTE approved polytechnics have 79 specializations for Community Colleges and the UGC has approved 80 specializations in 157 Community Colleges.

(c) The Ministry has implemented several schemes to promote Skill Development to offer on the job practical training to enhance the employability. The National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) has been notified by the Ministry of Finance with the objective to make qualification more understandable and transparent. The Ministry is also implementing several schemes namely B.Voc Courses, Career Oriented Courses and Kaushal Kendras including Community Colleges Scheme to offer more vocational courses throughout the country and equipping the students with the necessary skills. The Ministry has also launched Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) and Credit Framework for skills for vertical and horizontal mobility of the student in skills & general education.