

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The Department of Space (DOS)/Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) undertook the Edusat Programme for demonstrating the potential of Space technology towards meeting the needs of education sector. DOS/ISRO played a role of technology provider by launching the Edusat satellite and providing ground equipment. The responsibility of content, operations, management and publicity remains with the State/Central user agencies. However, towards publicity measures DOS/ISRO held pre-launch consultations with prospective users from State Governments/ Universities including bringing out brochures on Edusat programme. Further, user agencies like Utkarsh Society, Haryana; Punjab Education Society, Punjab; Society for APNET, Andhra Pradesh; BISAG, Gujarat, VTU e-learning, Karnataka; Victers, Kerala; Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC), New Delhi are making publicity through their websites.

Further, it is mentioned that Edusat (Tele-education) networks are popular in the states of Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, where the States have suitable mechanism to address the aspects of operations, management, content generation, etc.

As per the information furnished by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the university operates a small network under the Edusat project for carrying out teleconferencing sessions of Gyan Darshan-2 (DTH TV Channel). Under Edusat project, the students get assembled at select Edusat nodes at IGNOU's Regional centres and Study Centres to participate in the live session and also interact with teachers. Further, CEC, New Delhi is operating one of the Edusat National Beam since September, 2005 and regular one hour live transmission of the lectures delivered by the subject experts started from the CEC/Media Centres Studios. In view of the requirement of students, since May, 2014, CEC has started four (4) hours live transmission of lectures on Edusat network. The same are available through the CEC website www.cec-ugc.nic.in.

Funding pattern for SSA in Jammu and Kashmir

†1570. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has changed the pattern of funding for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the reasons for this funding/ amount going through three channels; and

(d) the plan of Government to send this amount directly?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Prior to 2014-15, the Central Share under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme was released to State Implementing Societies (SIS) of all States/UTs, including Jammu and Kashmir. As per the revised norms issued from the Ministry of Finance, the Central Share is released to State governments/UT administrations directly from 2014-15, who are, in turn, required to transfer the funds to SIS of SSA, within a period of 15 days.

Action against private/deemed universities

1571. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the action/punitive action taken by the University Grants Commission (UGC) against the private and deemed universities across the nation; and

(b) the grounds on which the action was taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Private Universities are regulated by UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003. As per Clause 5 of the above Regulations, UGC may take necessary action against the Private Universities in case of violation of the Regulations. In consonance with the provisions of the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003, the UGC, with the help of Expert Committees which include representatives from the concerned Statutory Council(s), has conducted on the spot inspection of 111 out of 208 private universities to assess whether the Private Universities are fulfilling the minimum criteria in terms of programmes, faculty, infrastructural facilities, financial viability, etc., as laid down from time to time by the UGC and other concerned Statutory Bodies/Councils. The Expert Committees have pointed out some deficiencies in the infrastructure and availability of qualified faculty. The UGC has asked these Private Universities to rectify these deficiencies.

Initially, Deemed to be Universities were governed and functioned under the provisions of UGC Guidelines, 2000. As per Clause 11 of the Guidelines, the Central Government/UGC can conduct an inspection of the Institution Deemed to be University with regard to its buildings, laboratories, its examinations, teaching and other work conducted or done by them. Accordingly, the UGC Expert Committees conducted onsite