

Transfer of DEC of IGNOU to UGC

1604. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether IGNOU is entrusted with responsibility of laying down norms and maintaining standards of distance education system in the country, as per the preamble and Section 4 and 5(2) of the IGNOU Act;

(b) if so, how the Ministry through an executive order transferred DEC and regulatory power of IGNOU in distance learning to UGC;

(c) whether the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Rajya Sabha in its 217th report termed it legally untenable as an executive order cannot override a law passed by the Parliament; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government on the basis of the report to uphold the provisions of the Act and restore DEC with IGNOU?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The erstwhile Distance Education Council (DEC) of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was created under Statute 28 of IGNOU in terms of the provisions under Section 25 of IGNOU Act, 1985 (No.50). Based on the decisions of the erstwhile DEC and the Board of management (BoM) of IGNOU taken at their 40th and 115th meeting held on 8th June, 2012 and 19th September, 2012 respectively, the President of India in his capacity as the Visitor of IGNOU, has approved repealing of Statute 28 of IGNOU dealing with the Distance Education Council. Further, the Central Government, in exercise of its powers conferred by Sub-Section 1 of Section 20 of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956 issued directions *vide* this Ministry's letter dated 29th December, 2012 and 25th February, 2014 to the UGC to take over the responsibility of the regulator in respect of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) education in the higher education system in the country.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The recommendations of 217th Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Rajya Sabha on the issue of taking over of Distance Education Council (DEC) of IGNOU by the UGC through an administrative order in violation of IGNOU Act, 1985 and the Statutes framed thereunder were examined at the level of the MHRD and reply thereon to the recommendations were communicated to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat *vide* this Ministry's letter No. 5-1/2015-DL dated 30th January, 2015 wherein MHRD has committed for the creation of an independent regulatory authority by name-Distance Education Council of India (DECI) and introduction of a

Bill to this effect within a period of six months before the Parliament. The Chairman, Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Rajya Sabha has accordingly granted extension of six months' time to MHRD for the same *vide* Rajya Sabha Secretariat's letter dated 24th February, 2015.

Right to quality education under RTE

1605. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Right to Education under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 has only improved the facilities, brought more kids to the schools and increased number of toilets but has failed to provide them with right to quality education;

(b) whether Government has initiated any survey to analyse the quality of education under the Act; and

(c) if so, the details of reasons for failing to provide the quality education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) at, 2009 and the Centrally sponsored scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) have assisted the States/UT's in achieving near universal Elementary Education and improved Elementary School infrastructure across the country.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducts National Achievement Surveys (NAS), every three years, for classes III, V and VIII. Three rounds of NAS have been conducted which reveal improvement in various subjects in all classes in most States, though the achievement levels overall remain low.

The Central Government has launched a sub-programme under SSA called 'Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat' in August, 2014, for improving early grade reading, writing and comprehension, and early mathematics in classes 1 and 2. Additionally, funds are being provided to improve learning levels in Science and Mathematics at upper primary level. Timely Teacher recruitment, teachers' redeployment, improving Pupil Teacher Ratios are other critical areas in the domain of State/UT Governments, to improve quality of outcomes.

Diversion of CSS funds by Gujarat Government

1606. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Government is diverting the centrally sponsored scheme funds to State sponsored schemes in the education sector;