

(c) whether it is also true that the Government has received a recommendation from the committee constituted on the issue concerning IIT, NIT entrance examinations, etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Based on the decision taken in the 49th meeting of the Council of IITs held on October 6, 2015 at IIT Bombay, Ministry of Human Resource Development constituted a Committee of eminent persons to review the current JEE System for admission in IITs and NITs. The Committee has submitted its report on November 5, 2015, which has been uploaded on the website of the Ministry for feedback/comments of stakeholders.

Funds for mid-day-meals in Rajasthan

†2155. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Rajasthan has requested the Government to pay an amount of ₹ 22.84 cr. which has been deducted from Food Corporation of India against the cost of foodgrains for mid-day-meals; and

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to allocate the said amount to the State, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) The proposal of the State Government relates to release of funds for pending liability towards payment of cost of foodgrains to FCI. There is a challenge with regard to the progress furnished by the State and hence the State Government has been reminded to furnish necessary clarifications in the matter.

Model degree college in educationally backward district

2156. SHRI RONALD SAPA TLAU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the definition of Educationally Backward district;

(b) whether Government is implementing a Centrally sponsored scheme to establish one model degree college in each of the identified educationally backward district in the country, if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the progress made so far in setting up of such colleges; and

(d) whether any discussions have been held with the State Government in this regard particularly in the matter of expenditure to be incurred for the scheme, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) An Educationally Backward District (EBD) has been taken to be a district where the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), as per 2001 census data was less than the national average of 12.4% as per that census.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), States can avail central share for construction of new Model Degree Colleges (MDCs) in uncovered EBDs. The outlay for each MDC is ₹ 12 crore with 60:40 Centre: State revised sharing pattern for non-Special Category States, 90:10 for Special Category States and 100% for Union Territories. As on 15th December, 2015 the target for 12th Plan for MDC approvals has been achieved and funds have been released for 49 MDCs. The Project Approval Board (PAB) of RUSA which accords approval for the proposals under the scheme includes State representatives.

Suicides by students at Kota

2157. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken serious note of the recent spate in suicides by students studying in private coaching institutes at Kota, preparing for admission tests for engineering and management courses at IITs and IIMs;

(b) whether Government is aware of the appalling conditions at the private coaching institutes in Kota where the students are subjected to a 24X7 grind in crammed shop-floors; and

(c) whether most of the students from middle class families studying on borrowed funds soon become weighed down with burden of expectations and accompanying stress, if so, Governments comments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) Private Coaching Institutes do not come under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.