

Peer Assisted Learning programme

1514. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Peer Assisted Learning programmes to be implemented in IITs;
- (b) the details of funding allocated by Government to each IIT for this scheme; and
- (c) whether this scheme or any other has been created to ensure that IIT students not fluent in English have academic and social support to help them catch up?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The IITs have been asked by the IIT Council to implement a Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) programme for mentoring socially and educationally disadvantaged students so that they can cope with the academic rigour of IITs. Under this, senior students mentor fresh students especially from socially and educationally disadvantaged sections. The programme is being implemented by IITs from their internal resources.

Apart from this, many IITs have taken steps to improve the fluency of students in English language such as:

- (a) Operationalising a basic English language course to improve English competency,
- (b) Offering two-non-graded courses in language and writing skills using professional software for English language instruction.
- (c) Conducting formal and informal English language remedial sessions by student mentors.
- (d) Holding special English classes on weekends or evening tutorials; and
- (e) Provision of additional help through teaching assistants.

The above support is provided by IITs without charging any fee.

Fellowship for research degrees

1515. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of students pursuing research degrees, including M.Phil and Ph.D. who receive fellowships from Government, year-wise since 2013;