

common schools to facilitate their integration and ultimate retention in the general school system. The scheme is being implemented through the Education Department of State Governments and UT Administrations as well as through Non-Governmental Organisations. Under the Scheme of IEDC, 100% assistance is being provided under various components for education of children suffering from mild to moderate disabilities in common schools. The components include educational aids, assistive equipment, salaries for special teachers and facilities for children with disability.

Vocational education

†1211. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that setting up of a separate Ministry is needed for development and expansion of vocational education in the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the action taken so far by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir. Ministry of Human Resource Development is implementing the scheme of Vocationalisation of education. Based on the recommendation of various review Committees the scheme is being revised.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Scholarships and Bank Loans for Higher Studies

1212. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that arrangements have been made to provide scholarships and bank loans for getting higher education from the institutions affiliated with his Ministry during the current year;

(b) if so, the number of students provided with the scholarships and bank loans in Assam during the year 2003-04; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.