

(b) Ninety Institutions including the institutions sponsored by Private Societies/Trusts have been notified as Deemed Universities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Chennai Medical College & Research Institute, Chennai was granted 'Deemed to be University' status under the provision of Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 on July 7, 1998 subject to a review after three years. On the request of the Government of Tamil Nadu, Deemed University status was withdrawn on 29th March, 2001.

(e) The UGC under its Act has been entrusted with the responsibility of promotion and coordination of university education and determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and Research in Universities. To carry out these functions, the UGC/Government of India has made several rules/regulations on different subjects with a view to improve the standard of university education.

#### **Universalisation of elementary education**

1227. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for universalisation of elementary education during the last one year; and

(b) the target set up to put and retain every child of school going age in the classroom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), annual work plan approvals in 2003-04 were given for 596 districts and a sum of Rs. 2698.38 crores was released to the respective States/UTs for implementation of the programme. *Inter-alia* approvals were accorded for opening of 67190 new schools, appointment of 398189 teachers, construction of 40960 school buildings, 68779 classrooms, 46272 toilets and 33161 drinking water facilities.

(b) All children in the age group of 6—14 are targeted to be covered under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme.