Higher education financing agency

518. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal to establish Higher Education Financing Agency and turning 10 public and private institutions into world class educational institutions could be a game changer, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that ten institutions each from both public and private sectors would be selected in the next few months, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to set up a Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) with an initial capital base of ₹ 1,000 crores and funds from the market and supplement them with donations from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Funds. These funds will be used to finance improvement in infrastructure in the top institutions not only 10 public private institutions, and will be serviced through internal accruals.

(b) The Government has announced in the Budget 2016-17 that an enabling regulatory architecture will be provided to ten public and ten private institutions to emerge as world-class Teaching and Research Institutions.

Removal of contents from NCERT books

519. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that contents about a large number of national leaders/ freedom fighters/revolutionaries have been either removed or snipped/curtailed from NCERT text books;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) There has been no change in the contents relating to national leaders, freedom fighters and revolutionaries, available in the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks, which have been in circulation since 2007-08.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.