

The mentor Directors are looking after the six new IIMs till the appointment of regular Director. For IIMs at Ranchi, Raipur, Bangalore and Rohtak, the SCSC has recommended a panel of names, which are under consideration of the Government. For IIM Tiruchirappalli, IIM Udaipur and IIM Kozhikode advertisement for the post has been issued. Till the appointment of regular Director, the tenure of the outgoing Director has been extended or the senior most Professor of the Institute has been given additional charge in these Institutions.

- (b) **National Institutes of Technology (NITs):** For nine NITs at Allahabad, Durgapur, Jaipur, Jalandhar, Kurukshetra, Rourkela, Surat, Tiruchirappalli and Warangal Search Committee has recommended a panel of names for final approval of the visitor. For four NITs at Hamirpur, Suratkhal, Bhopal and Puducherry advertisement has been issued and applications have been received. The charge of the post of Director has been entrusted either to the Director of another NIT/IIT or senior most Professor of the Institute.
- (c) **Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs):** For six IITs at Tirupati, Palakkad, Bhilai, Dharwad, Jammu and Goa advertisement has been issued and applications have been received.

Gender inequality in education

†1242. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether gender inequality in education has been a major challenge in the Indian education system, while the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Right to Education Act has played an effective role in meeting this challenge, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has made many special efforts during the last two years to root out gender inequality in education which yielded very encouraging results; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) and (b) In order to address the issue of gender inequality in elementary education the goals of the Centrally Sponsored scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) retain a clear focus on bridging and eliminating gender differences in enrolment, retention and quality of learning.

To encourage the participation of girls at elementary level, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides for the opening of schools in the neighbourhood to make access

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

easier for girls, the appointment of additional teachers including women teachers, free textbooks, free uniforms, separate toilets for girls, teachers' sensitization programmes to promote girls participation, gender-sensitive teaching learning materials including textbooks and the scheme of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) as residential upper primary schools for girls belonging to SC/ST/Minority Communities, BPL families and girls in difficult circumstances. Out of the 3609 KGBVs sanctioned, 3599 are operational enrolling 3,64,855 girls.

A 'Digital Gender Atlas' for advancing girls' education in India has been prepared to identify and ensure equitable education with a focus on vulnerable girls, including girls with disabilities.

The 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme, launched in January, 2015, is a joint initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development. The scheme has been initiated with the objectives of preventing gender biased sex selection elimination, ensuring survival and protection of the girl child and ensuring her education.

Under the Swachh Vidyalaya Initiative, 417796 toilets blocks have been constructed/re-constructed in 261400 elementary and secondary Government schools from 15th August, 2014 to 15th August, 2015. As on 15th August, 2015, every Government school has gender segregated toilets.

Under the Rashtriya Madyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) interventions to promote girls participation in secondary schools include the opening of new schools, the strengthening of existing schools, the appointment of teachers including female teachers, the construction of residential quarters for teachers in remote/hilly areas, hostel facilities for girls' curriculum reforms to eliminate any hidden gender bias, conduct of self defence training for the girls, special programmes for empowerment of girls, stipend for girls with disabilities, vocationalization of secondary education, girls hostel scheme, teacher sensitization programmes and separate toilet blocks for girls. Girls are exempt from paying tuition fee in Kendriya Vidyalayas, and there is 33% reservation for girls in Navodaya Vidyalayas.

The "National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education" provides a ₹ 3,000/- deposit in the name of eligible unmarried girls below 16 years as fixed deposit, to be withdrawn along with interest, upon the girl reaching 18 years of age and after passing class 10.

'Udaan' is an initiative of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to promote educational opportunities for girl students. It has been designed to provide a comprehensive platform for deserving girls students who aspire to pursue higher

education in engineering, and assist them to prepare for the IIT JEE while studying in classes XI and XII.

(c) Due to the concerted efforts made by the Department the transition rate of girls from primary to upper primary has shown an increase from 89.76% in 2012-13 to 89.99% in 2013-14 as per Unified District Information System for Education (U-DISE). The ratio of girls to boys enrolment has remained the same at 0.93% at primary level and 0.95% at upper primary level respectively for this period whereas it has shown an increase at secondary level from 1% to 1.01% for these two years. The annual average dropout rate of girls at primary level has decreased from 4.66% in 2013-14 to 4.49% in 2014-15.

UGC rules on alliance with foreign universities

1243. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission has revised its rules on alliance with foreign universities, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the revised rules did not result in enough foreign universities showing interest in having twinning arrangement with Indian counterpart; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has announced a scheme for State universities under which professors from universities abroad would be invited to spend a year to help them improve curriculum pedagogy, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified the UGC (Promotion and Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2016 with a view to increase synergy between Indian and foreign academic institutions, to offer students additional choices, improve curriculum and the delivery of knowledge and educational content. The regulations are in supersession of UGC (Promotion and Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012.

As per the new regulations, Indian universities and colleges, having the highest grade of accreditation/ threshold accreditation, and conforming to other eligibility conditions as laid down in the regulations, can apply online to the UGC for starting twinning arrangement with quality Foreign Educational Institutions (FEI) having the prescribed quality. The degree will be awarded by the Indian Educational Institutions