

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

(IEIs) alone; joint degrees are not permitted. The regulations provide for time-bound processing of the online applications by the UGC. The regulations are available at www.egazette.nic.in/www.ugc.ac.in

(b) The new regulations have been notified on 11th July, 2016 and it is too early to assess the response.

(c) It has been announced on 3rd June, 2016 by the Government that the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) will provide support for engagement of academics from leading foreign universities with State universities for curriculum and pedagogical reforms.

Scrapping of reservation for OBC category in Central Universities

1244. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether Government has issued a circular whereby it has scrapped reservation for OBC category for the posts of professor and associate professor in Central Universities, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): There has been no change in the reservation policy for SC, ST and OBC in appointment of faculty in Central Universities and the University Grants Commission has clarified this to all Central Universities *vide* their letter No. F.59-6/2012(CU) dated 7th June, 2016.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Odisha

1245. SHRI BISHNU CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocation under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) scheme for the last five years to Odisha;

(b) whether any analysis has been carried out recently to know the status of implementation of various schemes under SSA in Odisha;

(c) the quantum of allocation for Jagatsinghpur district for the last five years under SSA; and

(d) the details and status of schemes initiated under SSA in Jagatsinghpur district during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) Details of Central share of