

During the 12th plan (2012-17), the thrust is on consolidation of the higher education system. Expansion would be mainly done by scaling up capacity of the existing institutions in place of setting up new institutions. The Central Government has launched Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) on cost sharing basis to assist States to open new institutions.

Financial assistance for Community Development Through Polytechnic

1249. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has discontinued or stopped giving financial assistance to States to continue Community Development Through Polytechnic (CDTP), a centrally sponsored project to give training in skills to polytechnic students;

(b) whether it is a fact that as a result of this CDTP was discontinued since 2015-16 in 31 Government polytechnics in Kerala; and

(c) whether grants for this course which is in high demand would be reintroduced from this academic year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. During 2015-16, an amount of ₹ 232.00 Lakh was released covering 29 Polytechnics in Kerala who have submitted valid Utilization Certificates in respect of grants sanctioned earlier. During the current year, an amount of ₹ 112.50 Lakh covering 16 Polytechnics has also been released so far.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Collection of school development fund in Kendriya Vidyalaya

†1250. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fifteen hundred rupees are being taken from students in Kendriya Vidyalayas on quarterly basis as fee in the name of school development fund;

(b) if so, whether it is a violation of the Right to Education Act which provides for free education;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.