

exceeding five years, with necessary clearances from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs. This has been done to bring in international exposure to these premier institutions. The exercise is mutually beneficial as the foreign faculty brings a diverse but relevant research background, which adds to the vibrancy of the Institute in terms of collaboration with in-house faculty in areas of research, supervision of Ph.D students, seminar presentations, teaching in advanced courses and mentoring. Government offers attractive pay and allowances to all faculty members in IITs and also provides necessary support for carrying out research. To attract quality faculty, IITs take steps such as: year-round open advertisements, invitation through search-cum-selection procedures to alumni/scientists/faculty, and advertisements in international journals.

#### **Funding for research in universities**

3895. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to stop funding for research in universities of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that there is no proposal in UGC to stop funding for research in universities of the country.

#### **Committee for reservation to girl students in IITs**

†3896. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have constituted a committee to study the feasibility of providing relaxation in admission to girl students;

(b) if so, by when the committee has been asked to submit the report;

(c) whether Government would start implementation of recommendations of the committee as soon as the report is received; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.