

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,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

a committee under the Chairmanship of Director, IIT-Mandi has been constituted by the Joint Admission Board (JAB) for increasing enrolment of female students in B.Tech programmes of IITs. The Committee is to submit its Report in April, 2017.

Campus of Central Tribal University at Bastar

†3897. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a proposal from State Government of Chhattisgarh for opening of a campus of Central Tribal University of Amarkantak in Bastar for special study of scheduled tribes;

(b) if so, the response of Government in this regard; and

(c) by when the approval would be accorded?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Financial impact of free education at IITs

3898. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial impact of Government announcement of free education at Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) for undergraduate courses to students who belong to SC, ST, with disability categories, and those whose family income is less than ₹ one lakh per annum; and

(b) whether Government would be reimbursing the IITs for the loss of revenue on this account so that there is no hindrance to their functioning, quality of research and education imparted and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) *vide* order dated 08.04.2016 revised the tuition fee for undergraduate programmes in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), which includes complete fee waiver to SC/ST/PH students and most economically backward students whose family income is less than ₹ 1 lakh per annum. The order also allows two-third fee remission to other economically backward students whose family income is between ₹ 1 lakh to 5 lakh per annum. This revision causes no hindrance to the IITs as Government

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.