

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) As per Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) 2015-16, 1.65 lakh children with learning disabilities are enrolled at primary level of schooling under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). At the secondary and senior secondary level of schooling under the scheme of Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage, a total of 2.37 lakh children with special needs (CWSN) are enrolled, out of which 14918 children are with learning disabilities as per UDISE 2015-16.

(b) and (c) Under the SSA, regular parental counselling programmes are conducted for parents of CWSN including those of learning disabilities. Besides, the resource persons engaged at the Block Resource Centres exclusively for CWSN under SSA conduct home visits to counsel parents. States like Kerala and Odisha do exclusive counselling programmes for parents of CWSNs.

Under the SSA, 18174 resource persons have specifically been engaged for children with special needs. These resource persons are technically qualified to teach CWSN. They provide remedial education to children with specific learning disability. Under SSA, 70281 general teachers were given training on learning disabilities during 2015-16.

SSA promotes inclusion of CWSN in neighbourhood schools through their early identification, educational placement, provision of aids and appliances and other resource support services, teacher training, parental training, community mobilisation, curricular adaptations, removal of architectural barriers, as well as residential, non residential or even home based education, as per their specific requirements. The National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) has developed exemplar material on curricular adaptations, inclusive teaching and evaluation of children with disabilities in inclusive classrooms. This handbook, meant for primary and upper primary level teachers, covers all disabilities, including cognitive and intellectual disabilities and has been disseminated to all States and UTs.

Centralised selection procedure for appointment in Universities

†1635. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards the fact that nepotism is prevalent in appointment of assistant professors, associate professors and professors in the name of autonomy of Universities;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering any centralised selection procedure for recruitment on the said posts; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government is considering to assign such recruitment process to any institute like Union Public Service Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) The Universities are autonomous bodies created either under the Central Act or State Act. The onus of appointment of Assistant Professors, Associate Professors and Professors in these universities lies with them. However, the Universities are required to follow the procedure and processes as mandated in the UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulation, 2010 and in the subsequent amendments to the 2010 principal regulations.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration either for drawing up of any centralised selection procedure or of assigning recruitment process of teaching staff in Universities to any institute like Union Public Service Commission.

Vacant seats in Professional Colleges

†1636. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of engineering colleges in the country for higher technical education, State-wise;

(b) whether students are losing interest in these courses and seats in these courses remain vacant in comparison to previous year, and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any scheme is proposed by Government for encouraging these colleges and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) and (b) The State-wise details of AICTE approved engineering colleges, allocated and vacant seats therein for the current and last three academic years are given in the Statement (*See* below). Further, the filling up of seats in engineering colleges is dependent on demand-supply situation.

(c) Since many of these colleges are privately managed and there is no scheme by the Government to encourage them. However, to rationalize the expansion of courses in Engineering/Technological, Management etc., AICTE has notified Mandatory Accreditation Regulation for institutes seeking new courses/expansion of existing courses.

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