

**Response to vocational courses under CBSE**

2474. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of responses to vocational courses under the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) across the country, particularly in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) whether Government would consider making these vocational courses attractive enough if the responses are poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) and (b) At present 1400 Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) affiliated school are offering 13 Vocational courses at Secondary level under National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) Scheme with an enrolment of 1,68,000 students. Similarly, 800 schools are offering 29 skill based courses at Senior Secondary Level with an enrolment of 17,700 students. In Telangana and Andhara Pradesh 23 Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) affiliated schools are offering vocational courses with an enrollment of 1600 students.

CBSE, offers vocational subjects as sixth additional subject at secondary level (classless IX and X) and as elective/additional subject at Senior Secondary Level. A special provision has been made to make the vocational subject attractive wherein if a student fails in any of the three main academic subjects (*i.e.* Science, Mathematics, Social Science) and pass in vocational subject then marks of failed subject is replaced by vocational subject and result of Class X is computed accordingly.

**Improvement and promotion of open universities**

2475. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the number of open universities in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of courses which are in high demand in such universities; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken by Government to improve and promote such universities to facilitate increased enrolment for higher studies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) As per the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), there are fifteen (15) Universities in the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) field in the country (14