

(d) the action taken by Government in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. We have taken up with State Governments to regulate the private coaching institutions in the interest of students & their overall development.

(c) and (d) The Government has initiated the IIT-PAL initiative for promoting scientific thinking and conceptual understanding of the science and mathematics subject of 11th and 12th standards, which can reduce dependence on the coaching institutions. The Government is making determined efforts to enhance the quality of education in Schools as well as in colleges and implementing several schemes in this regard.

Free DTH set-top-boxes in naxal-hit areas

2178. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati has decided to distribute free of cost Direct to Home (DTH) set-top boxes in the naxal-hit areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of such DTH set-top boxes proposed to be distributed, State-wise and the total expenditure likely to be incurred for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that DTH receiver sets have been distributed by Doordarshan, in the past, in selected areas. Further, 30,000 DTH receiver sets have been approved for distribution in tribal, remote & border areas, in consultation with State Governments. An allocation of ₹ 20 crore has been made for this purpose.

Modernisation of Akashvani and Doordarshan

†2179. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has modernised Akashvani and Doordarshan to make them popular, if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.