

Hospital. Immediately following the incident, the BHU constituted a High Power Committee for investigation into the unfortunate incident. As per the Report of the Committee, no impurity was found in the Nitrous Oxide Gas that was used for anaesthesia.

(c) and (d) The validity of the license of the Gas Supplying Agency was till 31.10.2015. As informed by the University, the basis for continuing the contract with the Gas Supplying Agency was that it had applied to the concerned authority of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for renewal till 31.01.2020.

(e) As a precautionary measure the hospital has immediately stopped taking supply of the gas from the concerned firm. The matter is at present *sub-judice* with the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad.

Sliding down of position of IISc

1983. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IISc. Bangalore has slid down from its previous position in the 'Times Higher Education' world university ranking 2018;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) what measures the Ministry proposes to take to regain, retain and improve the world ranking by such elite institutes of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. In the Times Higher Education (THE) rankings 2018 (released on 5th September, 2017), the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, is placed at 251-300, while it was in the 201-250 band in the THE-2017 rankings.

(b) The IISc has improved its rankings on certain components like teaching (compared to last year) but fared not so well on some other criteria (like citation score). The institute has done an analysis of this and would continue to focus on quality research to improve its ranking in future years. It may also be noted that THE Rankings have a substantial weightage to subjective factors like perception, which could impact the ranking.

(c) For improving the global ranking of the elite institutions, University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued/notified enabling regulatory architecture in the form of UGC (Declaration of Government Educational Institutions as Institutions of Eminence (IoEs)) Guidelines, 2017 and UGC (Institutions of Eminence Deemed to

be Universities) Regulations, 2017 to enable 10 public and 10 private Institutions to emerge as World Class Teaching and Research Institutions. These institutions shall be called as Institutions of Eminence. Applications for IoE have been received. The Government educational institutes, selected under the scheme will be given financial incentives upto ₹ 1000 crore, besides granting them a higher degree of autonomy and freedom from regulatory controls.

Encouraging regional language in primary education

1984. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to make the education of regional language compulsory in primary education; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) and (b) Section 29(f) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides that the medium of instruction at elementary level shall, as far as practicable, be in child's mother tongue. An advisory dated 31st January, 2012 has been issued to all the States and Union Territories on implementation of the provisions of Section 29 of the RTE Act, 2009.

Merging of colleges by AICTE

1985. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is toying with the idea of merging two colleges in the vicinity of each other;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that AICTE is also considering the proposal of buy outs to resolve the lingering issue of vacant seats in technical colleges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.