

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.