

**Enhancement of fee by IGNOU**

715. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has enhanced the fees up to 20 per cent for all the graduation, post-graduation, diplomas and certificate courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government has withdrawn the scheme for providing education to all on reasonable fees; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the steps taken by Government to reduce the enhanced fees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (d) As per the information furnished by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the university with the initiatives of 'Ease of Academic and Administration' has constituted a Committee on the fee rationalization and based on the recommendations of this Committee, it has enhanced 20% of fee for all the programmes at graduation, post-graduation, diplomas and certificate levels. The same shall be implemented from January, 2018 session. The IGNOU being autonomous takes decisions on the charging of fees etc. (programme/course-wise) from its students based on the decisions taken at its Academic Council level.

**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Scheme**

716. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the detailed action plan to launch and implement 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Scheme' to promote culture and languages of all States in the country;

(b) the details of initiatives taken by Government under this scheme;

(c) whether a timeline has been set for the implementation of these initiatives and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of funds allocated/proposed for this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat is an initiative to foster national integration by a co-ordinated mutual

engagement process of States, Union Territories, Central Ministries, Educational Institutions and general public through cultural exchanges. The States/Union Territories besides key Central Ministries/Departments *viz.*, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Railways, Department of Sports and Department of Youth Affairs, in addition to Ministry of Human Resource Development, have formulated monthly Action Plans under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) from mid-October, 2017 to December, 2018, covering a gamut of activities in the educational, cultural, geographical, social, tourism, sports, youth-related, and sharing of best practices, encompassing a wide range of subjects. The Action Plans are followed up periodically under the EBSB Scheme. There are 16 paired-States/Union Territories, the details of which are available in [www.ekbharat.gov.in](http://www.ekbharat.gov.in). MoUs have been signed between the paired States/Union Territories. Nodal Officers have been appointed under EBSB by States/Union Territories. A compendium of cultures, languages, traditions, festivals etc. of all States/Union Territories has been prepared by NCERT named “India: Unity in Cultural Diversity.” A logo for EBSB has also been developed. Several States, Union Territories and educational institutions have commenced conducting various events under the programme with an integrative content relating to their paired States/Union Territories.

(d) No separate fund has been allocated for EBSB. States/Union Territories as well as Ministries/Departments concerned, are to expend funds from their own Budget.

#### **Allocation of funds to RMSA**

717. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to increase allocation of funds towards Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) to reach the target of universal access to secondary education and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of the steps taken to increase enrolment rates and reduce drop-out rates in schools at secondary level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) The Centrally sponsored scheme of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) envisages universalizing access to secondary education by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance (5 kilometer) of every habitation, improving quality of education through