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the Institute has been finalized at Air Field lands in Tadepalligudem, West Godavari District.

An SFC memorandum amounting to ₹460.50 crore has been approved for construction of permanent campus of NIT Andhra Pradesh, out of which, an amount of ₹50/- crore has already been released to the Institute. The details of funds released to NIT Andhra Pradesh since its establishment are as under:

Financial Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Amount released in Lakh	0.00	1000.00	5000.00

(as on 26.12.2017)

3. IIM

IIM Visakhapatnam is functioning from its Transit Campus from the Academic year 2015-16. The funds for construction of permanent campus will be released only after the approval of Union Cabinet.

So far, an amount of ₹ 49.96 crore has been released to IIM, Visakhapatnam for running the Transit Campus.

4. IISER

USER Tirupati is functioning from its Transit Campus from the Academic year 2015-16. The fund for construction of permanent campus will be released only after the approval of Union Cabinet.

So far, an amount of ₹ 84.30 crore has been released to IISER, Tirupati for running the transit campus.

5. IIIT Kurnool

As on date, an amount of ₹ 20.10 crore has been released for the establishment of IIITD&M Kurnool. The estimate for IIITD&M Kurnool is under finalization in consultation with Ministry of Finance. Funds will be released, after approval of project cost by the Cabinet.

#### Assessment of Innovation Programmes

1216. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment about the Innovation Programmes being carried out in the universities in the country including the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government or Government Agencies have suggested any improvements in the Innovation Programmes conceived and implemented by the universities/ institutions of higher education;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (e) In order to make India an innovation driven economy, NITI Aayog, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) together launched a mega initiative "India Innovation Index" that will rank States on Innovations through country's first online innovation index portal that will capture data on innovation from all Indian States on innovation and regularly update it in real time.

Improvement in the quality, research and innovation in educational institutions is an on-going endeavour and the Central Government has been making a constant effort in this direction.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) *inter alia* provides support to State Governments for enhancing research quality, incubation centers, innovation hubs, etc. Till date, an amount of ₹ 12.03 crore has been released to 3 States namely Maharashtra, Nagaland and Tamil Nadu.

Further, the Smart India Hackathon and Smart India Hardware Hackathon have been launched to improve the innovative abilities of the students in the Higher Education Institutions. The Smart India Hackathon has received huge response when it was launched in 2017 and this would be continued as annual event. The projects for promoting research and innovation like the IMPRINT and Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY) have brought focused attention of the scientific community on the need for promoting innovation. The Start up India initiative of the Government has also put in place a mechanism for identifying and incubating the innovative ideas.

The Government is also promoting research parks (RPs) and technology business incubators (TBIs) which would nurture and promote the innovative ideas till they become commercial ventures. To complement the renewed focus of the Government on developing indigenous Research and Development capabilities, boosting manufacturing and creating a successful startup culture in the country, five new Research Parks at IIT

Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Kanpur, IIT Hyderabad, and IISc Bangalore at a total cost of ₹75.00 crore each have been approved by the Government. Approval has also been accorded for continued financial support for two already approved Research Parks at IIT Bombay and IIT Kharagpur at a cost of ₹100 crore each. The Research Park at IIT Gandhinagar at a total cost of ₹90 crore is being funded by the Department of Science & Technology. In addition to this, the Research Park at IIT Madras is fully functional.

#### **Infrastructure facilities in schools**

1217. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps taken by Government to create infrastructural facilities in all schools across the country particularly in State of Tamil Nadu by utilizing 'Primary Education Cess';
- (b) whether any audit objection has been raised for utilizing 'Primary Education Cess' for creating school infrastructure which hampers infrastructural work; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) The Primary Education Cess (PEC) is credited to Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh (PSK) and is used to meet part of the expenditure on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) & Mid Day Meal (MDM) schemes.

The Central Government supports State Governments and UT Administrations for creation and augmentation of infrastructural facilities in Government elementary schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme. The requirement of infrastructural facilities in schools are worked out every year by the respective State/Union Territory on incremental basis depending on their need and priority and reflected in their Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B).

Since the inception of SSA in 2001 till 30.9.2017, construction of 3.12 lakh primary and upper primary school buildings, 18.87 lakh additional classrooms, 2.42 lakh drinking water facilities and 10.53 lakh school toilets have been sanctioned to States and UTs. 8544 primary and upper primary school buildings, 38707 additional classrooms, 17330 drinking water facilities and 58518 school toilets have been sanctioned for Tamil Nadu.