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.

(b) and (c) The office of Director General of Audit has forwarded draft paragraph regarding short transfer of proceeds of Primary Education Cess to Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh. It is stated in the draft paragraph that the scrutiny of the Union Finance Accounts for the period 2016-17 revealed that against the total collection of Primary Education Cess of ₹ 20221.78 crores, only ₹ 19732.47 crore has been credited into PSK.

Lack of programming skills

1218. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that 95 per cent engineers are not fit to take up software development jobs due to poor academic background;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether it is also a fact that only 4.77 per cent candidates could write the correct logic for a program;

(d)   whether while more than 60 per cent candidates could not even write code that compiles, only 1.4 per cent could write functionally correct and efficient code; and

(e)   whether the lack of programming skills is adversely impacting the IT and data science eco-system in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the figures available with AICTE, the placement percentage of UG and PG students of Information Technology (IT) in the AICTE Approved technical institutions has gone up from 48.46% in 2013-14 to 57.69% in 2015-16.

(c) and (e) There is no such evidence available with Government. The competence and expertise of Indian IT graduates has been recognised globally, by virtue of which Indian IT professionals have earned reputation in the leading IT companies worldwide.

However, it is true that programming ability is an essential skill for engineering students. In order to promote coding abilities, several steps had been taken by AICTE such as changes in model curriculum with greater emphasis on the coding skills, mandatory summer internships, promoting hackathons such as Smart India Hackathon etc.