

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (d) University of Delhi (DU) has informed that the Department of Commerce, DU has appointed 16 *Ad-hoc* Assistant Professors in the beginning of current academic session (2017-18) as per University rules. In addition, three new *Ad-hoc* teachers were appointed against the three *ad-hoc* positions which became vacant out of sixteen *ad-hoc* sanctioned posts. Out of three new appointees, two of them are the research scholars of the present Head, Department of Commerce. The appointment does not amount to favouritism as the appointments were made by the duly approved selection committee and the due process has been followed in the appointments. The appointments were made on the basis of candidates being meritorious, having teaching experience, giving good performance in the interview and possessing ability to teach the required PG courses.

Innovation programmes

1202. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of innovation programmes being undertaken in the universities, Central as well as State, across the country;
- (b) the details of students who are involved in the innovation programmes; and
- (c) the details of funds spent in these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) 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.

The details of students involved in the various innovation programmes are not maintained centrally.

Girls' hostels in Assam

1203. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from Assam Government for setting up of girls hostels in economically backward blocks of the State;

(b) if so, the details including its present status and by when these proposals are likely to be approved; and

(c) the status of such proposals received from other States during the last three years, State-wise and proposal-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) and (b) The Girls' Hostel component of the centrally sponsored scheme of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) provides for financial assistance to State/UT Governments for setting up of one Girls' Hostel in each Educationally Backward Block (EBB) for girls students studying in secondary and higher secondary schools. Girls' hostels have already been approved in all the 81 EBBs in the State of Assam. The scheme does not provide for setting-up