

- (iv) Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY) to promote innovation of a higher order that impacts the needs of the Industry and thereby improving the competitive edge of Indian manufacturing.
- (v) Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN) to bring together foreign and Indian faculties from the world's leading academic institutions to teach an academic course that provided the credit to participating institutions.
- (vi) The Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) have organized Graduate Employability workshops based on course curriculum. Further, day long soft skills' workshops for pre-final and final year students are being conducted for enhancing their technical knowhow.
- (vii) Swayam Prabha is an initiative to provide 32 high quality educational channels through DTH (Direct to Home) across the length and breadth of the country on 24x7 basis.
- (c) Does not arise.

Wages to *ad-hoc*/contract teachers of schools

1817. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that there are thousands of *ad-hoc*/contract teachers working in private management schools who are not getting even minimum wages, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government is taking serious note that the school managements are exploiting teachers to work more for low wages; and
- (c) if so, the details of the measures taken by Government to streamline the wages to all contract and *ad-hoc* teachers in private management schools in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) to (c) Education being a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and the majority of schools, including the private management schools being under the jurisdiction of the State /Union Territory Governments, it is for the respective State /Union Territory Government to take adequate

measures to ensure that the ad-hoc/contract teachers working in these schools are not exploited by the school managements.

So far as the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) affiliated schools are concerned, the Rule 3.3(i)(v) of the CBSE's Affiliation Bye-Laws clearly provides that 'the school in India must pay salaries and admissible allowances to the staff not less than the corresponding categories of employees in the State Government Schools or as per scales, etc., prescribed by the Government of India or as per the conditions laid down by the State Government'. In case of violation of the aforesaid provision by any CBSE affiliated private school, the Board may take action against such school, leading to disaffiliation of the school.

Opening of schools in vicinity of tribal areas

1818. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to open more Higher and Senior Secondary School in the vicinity of tribal areas across the country in order to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of ST students;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA) (a) to (c) The Government has launched Samagra Shiksha - An Integrated Scheme for school education, w.e.f. 2018-19, which is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. It envisages the 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels. The scheme provides *inter-alia* for establishment of new schools or upgradation of existing upper primary schools to secondary level and secondary schools to senior secondary level.

Bridging social category gaps at all levels of school education is one of the major objectives of the scheme. Provision has been made under the scheme for giving preference to Special Focus Districts (SFDs) with higher concentration of ST population while planning various interventions including opening more senior secondary schools in the tribal areas.