

(SSA) by giving advances to works other than meant for related components under SSA in Andhra Pradesh to the tune of nearly ₹150 crore has come to the notice of the Ministry;

(b) whether the Ministry is also aware that this has been observed even by CAG in its report; and

(c) if so, what action the Ministry proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) Under the erstwhile centrally sponsored scheme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) there were numerous interventions and within each intervention there were many activities to be carried out for the implementation of the scheme. As per the Scheme guidelines, the States were not allowed to incur expenditure for any activity or purpose other than as sanctioned in the Annual Works Plan and Budget of the State. On the basis of the provisional utilization certification for the year 2014-15, it had come to the notice of the Department that the State had taken recourse to transfer of funds from one head to another head under the Scheme. The anomaly noticed was pointed out to the State. The State had informed that the transfer had been shown erroneously but had corrected the deficiency in the final utilization certificate.

(b) CAG had conducted the Performance Audit of the RTE Act and the report has since been submitted. The report of the CAG (Report no. 23 for the year 2017) has already been laid in Parliament. The report does not contain any specific observation or mention of misuse, diversion of funds ₹150 crores in Andhra Pradesh to activities other than those meant for related components.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Foreign faculty members in IITs**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign faculty members are teaching in premier educational institutions in this country including Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of terms and conditions including financial packages on the

basis of which foreign faculty members have been appointed in country's premier educational institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYAPAL SINGH): (a) to (c) Government of India launched a Scheme - Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) on 30th November, 2015. Under this scheme distinguished academicians, entrepreneurs, scientists, experts from premier Institutions from all across the world are invited to teach in the Higher educational institutions in India. Presently, all IITs, IIITs, NITs, IISc, IISERs, IIST, National Law Schools, IIMs, Central Universities and State Universities who have received 'A' Category accreditation are considered as Approved Host Institutions to conduct a course under GIAN Scheme. In this Scheme, foreign faculties participate to deliver short term courses of one to two weeks at an Indian host Institution. The upper limit of overall expenditure, including travel allowed for each such course is \$8000 for 12-14 hours and \$12000 for 20-28 hours course.

Measures have been taken for recruitment of foreign faculty like creation of pan-IIT faculty pool, effective use of visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) Faculty Scheme of Department of Science and Technology (DST), appointment of eligible Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Card holders as permanent faculty, hassle free visa to foreign faculty, reducing of annual income ceiling from US \$25,000 to ₹ 9,10,000/- per year. Subject to the statutes of each IIT for appointment of faculty and other staff, the respective Board may appoint any person on contract in the specified Scales of Pay and on terms and conditions applicable to the relevant post for a period not exceeding five years with the provision of renewal for further period. For making such appointment, the Chairman of the respective Board may, at his or her discretion, constitute such *ad-hoc* Selection Committees as deemed fit and proper.

Further, the universities can hire foreign faculty, up to 20% over and above of their total sanctioned faculty strength, from any institution appearing in top 500 Education World University Rankings of the QS Rankings.

#### **Funds under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to Rajasthan**

243. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a letter from Rajasthan State Government to release the funds under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) by Project Approval Board