

Institutes under AICTE

4382. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are more than 10,000 technical institutes which are looked after by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE);
- (b) whether it is also a fact that out of these 5,000 institutes are good;
- (c) whether Government is considering to help the remaining institutes to become better institutions; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the data maintained by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), a total of 10,399 Technical Institutes were approved by AICTE for the academic year 2017-18.

(b) No such record is available with the Government.

(c) and (d) In order to enhance the quality of technical education in AICTE approved institutions, the Council has approved an action plan focusing on Planning, Selection, Induction Training, Curriculum Revision, Mandatory Internships, Industry Readiness, Promotion of Innovation and Start-ups, Exam Reform, Teachers' Training and Mandatory Accreditation.

Inter-State disparity in education

4383. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of huge Inter-State disparity in ability to read, write and solve arithmetic among the students of age group of 14-18 years;
- (b) whether Government is also aware that there is a 30-40 per cent Inter-State disparity in ability to read and write; and
- (c) if so, the measures taken by Government to ensure uniform quality of education in schools and colleges during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) and (b) A National Achievement Survey for assessing the learning levels of students at secondary level (Class X) from Government, Government aided and Private schools was conducted for

the first time in 2015 at national level. The survey assessed students' achievements in Mathematics, Social Science, English, Science and Modern Indian Languages. The writing ability of the students was not assessed. In the assessment reports, slight inter-state disparity in achievement level of students in different subjects was observed.

(c) The Centrally sponsored scheme of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) envisages making secondary education of good quality, available, accessible and affordable to all young persons in the age group of 14-18 years.

Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to the States/UTs for opening of New government secondary schools and strengthening of existing Government secondary schools alongwith provision of (i) Class Rooms, (ii) Integrated Science Laboratory, (iii) Library (iv) Art and Craft Room, (v) Toilet Blocks, (vi) Drinking Water Provisions, (vii) Head Master Room, (viii) Office Room. Under the scheme, 2,540 new schools and 7,013 existing schools for strengthening have been sanctioned during last 3 years.

Further, there is provision of appointment of 1 Head Teacher and 5 Teachers for every new/upgraded secondary school and Additional teacher is also approved as per Teacher-pupil ratio as per requirement of State Governments/UTs. Under the scheme, 13,564 post of teachers/headmasters have been approved during last 3 years. Various types of teachers training including in-service training to Headmasters/Principals/teachers, Training of Master Trainers, Training of Key Resource Persons, induction training of Teachers, and Leadership training of Headmasters and State Resource Groups (SRGs) are also supported under RMSA to improve the quality of teaching learning. Training of 14.13 lakh teachers have been approved during last 3 years.

Moreover, interventions like motivation and awareness programmes, remedial teaching, self-defence training for girls, provision of separate toilets for girls and boys, etc. are also supported under RMSA to improve quality of school education at secondary level. Further, interventions such as Science fair/Exhibition and Talent Search at district level, mathematics and science kits to schools, visits of students to institutions of higher learning and learning enhancement of students are also approved. ICT initiatives like e-pathshala, NROER, Shaala Darpan, Shaala Siddhi, GIS Mapping have also been taken by the Ministry for improving quality of education.

For Higher Education, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has been constantly striving to develop a system of quality appropriate to the national needs and aspirations and in tune with global trends. In order to realize this, UGC allocates resources in such a manner that higher education system in the country is streamlined and strengthened along the principles of access and expansion, quality and excellence, equity and inclusion, research and relevance and ICT incorporation.

In order to ensure that the quality of higher education is sustained and further streamlined, UGC has notified the following regulations in the last 3 years which are mandatory for every institution of higher education across the country to observe.

- UGC (Recognition and Monitoring of Assessment and Accreditation Agencies) Regulations, 2014.
- UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016

Further, UGC has also in order to encourage research and development in the country, laid out a number of schemes, awards, fellowships, chairs and programmes under which financial assistance is provided to institutions of higher education as well as faculty members working therein to undertake quality research in almost all areas of knowledge across disciplines such as Universities with Potential for Excellence Scheme, Centre with Potential for Excellence in Particular Area (CPEPA) Scheme, Special Assistance Programme (SAP) Basic Science Research etc.

In addition to the above, UGC has taken many initiatives to improve the quality of Higher Education and meet the global standards. Some of the recent ones are listed below:

- UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.PHIL./PH.D Degrees) Regulations, 2016 were notified in order to maintain strong checks on the quality of research output being produced in the country. These regulations ensure elimination of malpractices in the admission process as well as the progression towards award of an M.Phil or Ph.D. degree.
- UGC (Promotion and Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2016 have been notified. One of the salient features of these regulations is to promote collaboration between the quality institutions from both the sides.
- UGC Approved List of Journals is a recent initiative of UGC for periodical notification of the list of approved journals to be considered for the purpose of computation of API scores.

Hiring of foreign faculty members at IITs

4384. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is mulling to hire foreign faculty members for longer terms to fill 20-30 per cent of faculty positions at the Indian Institutes of Technology;