

(b) whether it is also a fact that the delay in getting the visas acts as an irritant for prospective faculty members;

(c) whether Government would specifically focus on resolving the issue of hiring faculty members of Indian origin, who fall under the category of Overseas Citizen of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (d) In order to address shortage of faculty in premier educational institutions, including Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), various measures have been decided, especially for recruitment of foreign faculty. These include creation of pan-IIT faculty pool, effective use of VAJRA Scheme of Department of Science and Technology (DST), appointment of eligible OCI Card holders as permanent faculty, hassle-free visa to foreign faculty, reducing of annual income ceiling from US\$ 25,000 to ₹ 9.10 lakh per year. In addition to this, Government has also launched the Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN) to enable foreign faculty to teach courses in the higher educational institutions in India.

#### **Loans to universities for infrastructure development**

4385. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to provide soft loans to top universities for expansion and upgradation of hard and soft infrastructure and to set up research and technology parks;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) if not, what are the other measures being taken by Government to achieve this purpose; and

(d) whether the Ministry has any data on research and technology parks in various Central Universities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government has announced to step up investments in general and research infrastructure in premier educational institutions, including health institutions, by launching a major initiative named “Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022” with a planned total investment of ₹ 1,00,000 crore in next four years. Higher

Education Financing Agency (HEFA) would be suitably structured for funding this initiative.

In addition to Government equity, HEFA would leverage funds from the market to service the requirements of the Centrally Funded Institutions (CFIs).

The different areas where resources would include providing World Class infrastructure for teaching in the CFIs, building robust research eco system, providing linkages between Labs, building high-end Labs to support high-end research, completion of construction of (28) new institutions started since 2014 and providing for infrastructure of the institutions that are expected to be opened in accordance with the requirements of the growing economy.

There would be different windows of financing based on the internal revenues of the institutions, as envisaged in the scheme to be approved.

(d) Sir, no such data is maintained by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

#### **Vacancies in Engineering colleges in backward areas**

4386. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 50 per cent of faculty strength is lying vacant in State-run engineering colleges in backward areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the measures taken to fill the vacancies including hiring of IIT and NIT graduates as teachers in those colleges; and

(d) the details of amount proposed to be spent for improving the quality of engineering graduates as part of Technical Education Quality Improvement Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP) phase-III funded by the World Bank, is being implemented in educationally backward States, to improve the quality of engineering education in these states with a budget of ₹ 2660 crore. Around 55% positions of the sanctioned faculty strength are lying vacant in state-run engineering colleges participating under the project; as around 45% of the sanctioned faculty positions are filled by regular faculty. Moreover 30% positions are filled by faculty recruited on contract; therefore effective vacant positions are 25%. Details of faculty strength lying vacant are given in the Statement (*See below*). Recruitment of contract