

- (d) whether the Ministry would intervene and restore scholarship scheme; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Standing Committee of the Council of the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research recommended scrapping the Merit Scholarship Scheme in the National Institutes of Technology (NITs), in view of various exemptions related to tuition fee payments. Though this Scheme has not been scrapped, it was not implemented in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Central University status to Sanskrit institutions

2485. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to accord Central University status to Sanskrit institutions which are called as deemed universities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government is planning to discontinue the system of giving deemed university status to private universities and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYAJ PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the persistent demand from the Sanskrit scholars, academia persuading the Sanskrit education, MHRD has initiated a proposal to convert the 3 Deemed to be Universities *i.e.* Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi and Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati into Central Universities to make them a seat of Sanskrit learning of national and international repute. A Cabinet Note has, accordingly, has been prepared and circulated to obtain comments on the proposal.

- (c) No, Sir.