

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) No proposal regarding setting up of a new Central University in Darjeeling is, presently, under consideration of the Government. However, subject to approval by Parliament, a Central Tribal University proposed to be established with its headquarters at Amarkantak shall have powers to establish such number of its regional centres, viz. off-campuses constituted by the University and functioning as part of the University, in various tribal areas of the country as are, in the opinion of the University, necessary for furtherance of its objects. Resources permitting, during the Eleventh Plan, the proposed University could, thus, establish its off-campus at Darjeeling.

Quality in higher education

†2787. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accepted the report of the National Knowledge Commission for bringing quality in higher education and for bringing skill education and research of international standard;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Commission has made many important recommendations and Government have taken necessary decisions for their implementation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission are in the public domain for wider debate among all stakeholders.

Disinterest of students in basic science

†2788. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the students in the country are becoming disinterested in studying basic science;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the level of students and research scholars studying science and technology is no longer upto the global standards from quality point of view;

(c) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation is not able to get the required and prescribed number of brilliant students through competitive examination conducted every year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith Government's reaction thereto?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) This Ministry has not conducted any such study.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Space has informed that it is able to recruit only about 65% of the requirement of Scientists/Engineers during the last few years.

In order to mitigate the problem of acute shortage of quality human resource for Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), the Government has approved setting up of Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) near Thiruvananthapuram as a centre of excellence in education offering under-graduate, post-graduate, doctoral and post-doctoral positions in Space Science, Space Technology and Space Applications with customized curriculum meeting high technology requirements of ISRO.

Central assistance for madarsa modernisation

2789. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government, while implementing the recommendations of the Fatimi Committee, has urged the State Governments to initiate for more proactive measures in seeking Central assistance under the schemes of madarsa modernisation and appointment of Urdu language teachers;

(b) if so, whether the States have responded on the above advice of the Centre;

(c) if so, whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested for any additional financial assistance for the same;

(d) if so, the details of financial sanctions made and funds disbursed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Recently, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal for financial assistance of Rs.243.27 lakhs for modernization of madarasas and a separate proposal for the appointment of 2874 number of Urdu language teachers. The proposal, being recent, can only be considered when the Grants-in-Aid Committee meets next. The proposal for Urdu teachers is under examination.

Illegal courses by IIPM

2790. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received several letters from Members of Parliament bringing to the notice the illegal courses offered by Indian Institute of Planning and Management (IIPM) for MBA/BBA, at exorbitant fees;