

for the Ministry of Human Resource Development during 2007-08 as against Rs. 24.114.98 crores for 2006-07.

Adult literacy is being promoted through the National Literacy Mission which is imparting functional literacy to adult illiterates in the 15-35 age-group. In addition, the Central Government in collaboration with the State Governments is implementing the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for Universalisation of elementary education in the age-group of 6-14 years. An allocation of Rs. 18,626 crores and Rs. 401 crores has been made for Elementary Education and Adult Education respectively for 2007-08.

Corruption in education system

*28. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

(a) whether a new study of UNESCO's International Institute for Educational Planning reveals that various shades of corruption afflict the Indian education system - from teacher absenteeism, private tuition by teachers to embezzlement/mismanagement of school funds and even manipulation of entrance test for medicine, engineering and computer science;

(b) whether the report also mentions how postdated cheques, totalling more than \$ 300,000, were collected by the people offering to sell answers to a Nationwide examination for physicians;

(c) whether Government have examined the report fully; and

(d) if so, the action Government proposed to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH):

(a) The Government has seen a Report published in 2007 by UNESCO/International Institute of Educational Planning entitled "Corrupt Schools, Corrupt Universities; what can be done?". This report is not India specific and highlights the issues related to corruption in education and the consequent loss to the system in terms of its adverse effect on access, equity and quality, in developed and developing countries around the world. The report includes references to teacher absenteeism and private tuitions by teachers etc.; and also suggests strategies to reduce corruption and improve governance in education.

(b) In a discussion on academic fraud around the world, the Report cites several instances including an example from India that post-dated cheques totalling more than \$300,000 were collected by people, offering to sell answers for a nation-wide examination for physicians. The source of this information is stated to be the press.

(c) and (d) Central Government is continuously engaged, through consultations with State Governments and apex bodies such as University Grants Commission, the Central Board of Secondary Education and others, in eliminating malpractices in the educational system. Government of India has also commissioned an independent study to measure student and teacher attendance in select major States. Preliminary data from this study has shown that average teacher attendance in primary and upper primary schools is about 80%, Government also recognizes that eliminating the kinds of malpractices mentioned in the UNESCO/HEP Report will require not only the continuous

and committed participation of State Governments but also increased public awareness. and greater transparency and accountability in the public bodies.

Setting up of joint venture by NTPC

*29. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether NTPC has formed a joint venture Utility Powertech Ltd. (UPL);
- (b) if so, when it was formed and the details of nature of the joint venture and its present assignment;
- (c) whether any progress has been made for NTPC and BHEL continues to offer bids for power projects including Ultra Mega Power projects;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) NTPC had formed a Joint Venture with Bombay Suburban Electricity Supply(BSES), namely. Utility Powertech Limited(UPL) in November, 1995 mainly to take up assignments of construction, erection and supervision in power sector and other sectors in India and abroad.

Subsequently, BSES was taken over by Reliance Energy Limited (REL) and UPL, at present, is a 50:50 Joint Venture between NTPC Limited and REL.

The following services are being provided by UPL:

- (i) Operation and Maintenance Services
- (ii) Renovation and Modernisation Services
- (iii) Construction Services
- (iv) Distribution works
- (v) Rural Electrification works
- (vi) Non-conventional Energy Services.

(c) to (e) As informed by NTPC Ltd., they and BHEL had agreed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the supply of Boiler and Turbo Generator equipments for the Sasan Ultra Mega Power project. However, the price quoted by BHEL was high. Consequently, NTPC Ltd. had considered the plant/equipments' cost based on the cost of the similar equipments previously awarded through the process of competitive bidding process for NTPC Ltd. projects and NTPC Ltd. submitted bids for 660 MW units for Sasan UMPP on its own.

Time limit for results of DU

†*30. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.