

which includes establishment of a Central University near Bhagalpur at the historic site of Vikramshila University.

Entrance test for undergraduate and post-graduate courses

2115. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the introduction of entrance test for undergraduate (UG) and post-graduate (PG) courses in the country reduces the importance of 12th Board examination;
- (b) whether Government proposes to club 12th marks and common entrance marks to decide the ranking for admission to UG and PG courses instead of qualifying 50 per cent marks for general and 40 per cent for SC/ST;
- (c) if so, the details of the proposal; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK): (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has not framed any guidelines regarding introduction of entrance test for admissions in undergraduate (UG) and post-graduate (PG) courses in the country. Universities have autonomy to decide their admission policy for UG and PG courses.

Further, admissions to various UG programmes of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) are made on the basis of Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). There is no weightage for 12th class marks in calculating the ranks in the JEE (Main). For the candidates to qualify for admission in IITs/NITs/IIITs and such other Centrally Funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs) whose admissions are based on the JEE ranks, they have to secure atleast 75% marks in 12th class exam, or be in the top 20 percentile in the 12th class exam conducted by the respective Boards. For SC/ST students the qualifying marks are 65% in 12th class exam.

Involvement of NGOs in school education

2116. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the action taken to ensure that all children in the age group starting from six and above attend schools and avoid dropouts from schools;