Section 11 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides that in order to prepare children above the age of three years for elementary education and to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years, the appropriate Government may make necessary arrangement for providing free pre-school education for such children.

As defined in Section 2(a) of the RTE Act, 2009, the Central Government is the appropriate Government only in relation to a school established, owned or controlled by the Central Government, or the Union Territory(UT), having no legislature. In other cases, State and UT Government are the appropriate Governments, in relation to a school established within the territory of a State or a UT having legislature, respectively.

Further, as per Section 7(1) of the RTE Act, 2009, the Central Government and the State Government shall have concurrent responsibility for providing funds for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

The Central Government has been supporting States and UTs for implementation of various provisions of the Act including expenditure incurred towards reimbursement to private schools for admissions of children under Section 12(l)(c) from 2014-15. The support is provided on the basis of per-child expenditure notified by the concerned State and UT for children in class 1 and above. This financial support is in continuum to the assistance provided under the erstwhile scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, and is continued under the new scheme of Samagra Shiksha.

(b) 17 States and UTs, namely, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand have notified per child expenditure for reimbursement to private unaided schools against admission of children belonging to disadvantaged groups and weaker sections under Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, 2009. The RTE Act is not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir and Section 12(l)(c) of the RTE Act is not applicable to Lakshadweep as it does not have any private unaided schools.

(c) and (d) No such data is Centrally maintained.

Opening of new colleges

3711. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals are pending with Government for opening of new

medical, dental or engineering universities either in Government sector or in private sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Sanskrit Central University in Maharashtra

3712. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to set up Sanskrit Central Universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the places where these are proposed to be set up;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number and details of Sanskrit Central Universities proposed to be set up in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) to (d) There is a proposal under the consideration of the Government for conversion of the three existing Deemed to be Universities namely, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Delhi, Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, New Delhi into Central Universities for Sanskrit which is presently under inter-ministerial consultations stage. However, at present, there is no such proposal with the Government to set up Sanskrit Central Universities in Maharashtra.

Upgradation of schools under Samagra Shiksha

3713. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new composite schools from classes-I to XII that were