(7)   Opening English medium Schools at block headquarters as per demand from the community.

(8)   Introducing SARAL and NIKHAR program for remedial teaching.

(9)   Providing different grants to schools for improving their status.

(10)   Proposal for the functioning of School Complex for decentralized academic administration.

Merger of UGC and AICTE

542.   SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that the Ministry is contemplating to merge UGC and AICTE to create a single regulator for higher education;

(b)   if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c)   whether it is also a fact that the Ministry also proposes a Higher Education Commission to merge all regulators; and

(d)   if so, the reasons for merging only UGC and AICTE?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) to (d) Till now no final decision has been taken on this issue.

Vocational colleges in backward regions

†543. SHRIMAT KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)   whether there is a requirement/possibility of opening further more vocational colleges in backward regions;

(b)   if so, whether Government has issued any guidelines in this regard to the State Governments;

(c)   if so, the response of State Governments in the last five years; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.