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Source: UDISE 2017-18 (Provisional)

Faculty development to arrest declining education standards

1196. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government and other experts have stressed on the need to arrest the declining standards of education in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that attracting quality faculty and continuous faculty development and adjunct faculty from the industry and research institutions, if hired, can provide practical orientation to course modules and such multiple interventions are necessary; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the present status in this regard along with the steps taken/to be taken and results yielded?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) to (c) Improving the quality of education across all levels is well recognized and is a continuous and ongoing process. Several initiatives are being undertaken in this direction.

In higher education, the Ministry is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT). Under this Scheme, *inter alia*, a programme namely 'The Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT)', a major and unique initiative of online professional development of higher education faculty is being implemented.

In addition, various schemes, namely, Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN), Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP), are being implemented to improve the quality of teaching in higher education. A number of initiatives are also undertaken by UGC and AICTE for quality improvement of teaching in higher and technical education.

The Department of School Education and Literacy has launched a National Mission to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme called NISHTHA - National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement under the Scheme of Samagra Shiksha in 2019-20. This programme will cover around 42 lakh participants covering all teachers and Heads of all elementary Government schools, faculty members of State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs), District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) as well as officials and Resource Persons from Cluster and Block Resource Centres in all States and UTs. This massive capacity building programme has been integrated with technology to ensure smooth facilitation, availability of digital content and technology enabled teaching methods. A

Mobile App and Learning Management System (LMS) have been developed by NCERT (https://nishtha.ncert.gov.in/).

Further, a four year B.Ed integrated programme to bring about qualitative improvement in teacher education has been conceptualised and regulations has been published on 22nd November, 2018. The Ministry and the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) have developed a dedicated digital infrastructure for teachers, DIKSHA, to empower school teachers to access innovative tech-based solutions, by leveraging existing, highly scalable and flexible digital infrastructures, around the needs of teachers for effective teaching and administration.

ASER report on quality of Government Schools

1197. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that as per Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) education is the I nation's biggest failure as quality of Government schools has deteriorated over the decades; and
 - (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) and (b) Achievement surveys are released in the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) by a non-governmental organization. The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) is not associated with this survey.

Sanskrit Schools, Colleges and Universities

1198. Shri Rajmani Patel: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Sanskrit schools, colleges and universities existing in the country at present; and
- (b) how many Sanskrit schools/colleges/universities do not have proper buildings and other necessary facilities such as library, hostel, playgrounds drinking water and lack of teachers, etc., the State-wise details including the State of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) There are 18 Sanskrit Universities including three deemed