

basis. IGNOU is also now offering three online Certificates programmes in Tourism Studies, Russian Language and Arabic Language.

Out of school children

562. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of out of school children in the age group of 3-18 years in the country, gender-wise;

(b) the reasons for a large number of children eligible under RTE (Right To Education) for free and compulsory education for not being enrolled in educational institutions;

(c) whether Government has included any provisions in the New Education Policy to tackle the above problem; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) to (d) Ministry of Human Resource Development has commissioned three independent surveys through Indian Market Research Bureau (IMRB) to estimate out of school children in the country in the years 2005, 2009 and 2014. The Survey of Out of School Children in 6-13 years age group conducted in 2014 revealed that there were 60.64 lakh out of school children in this age group in which 31.66 lakh were male children and 28.98 lakh were female children. The major reasons for out of school children reported in the survey are poverty/economic reason, child suffering with poor health, child too young to be attending school, child needed to help in domestic work etc.

Draft National Education Policy envisages to achieve access and quality school education for all children in the age group of 3 to 18 years.

Unsolved issues of JNU

563. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) are on protest over various issues;