teacher ratio, in-service training of teachers for a period of 20 days each year, free distribution of textbooks for primary and upper primary classes to about 6.3 crore Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and girl students, regular academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 6700 Block Resource Centres (BRCs) and 66000 Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs), regular evaluation of students and monitoring of school performance.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is operational in all States and Union Territories and no fund have been taken back by the Government of India. An independent national sample Survey conducted in 2005 had indicated that 1.34 crore children in the 6 - 14 years age group were out of school. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan aims at universalization of elementary education by 2010.

Regulation and control of private institutions

1549. SHRI A.VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are any provisions to control and regulate fees, admission, curriculum of private educational institutions, including the institutions having minority status;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps to be taken to control fees and admission procedures of self-financing professional colleges; and
- (e) the total number of private educational institutions and educational institutions of minority status of various categories during the last three years, State-wise, category-wise and year-wise; and the financial support provided to private institutions from UGC and AICTE during that period, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Article 15(5) of the Constitution enables special provisions to be made by law for the advancement of the weaker sections in matters of admission to educational institutions, including private unaided institutions except those established by the minorities under Article 30 (1) of the Constitution. These special provisions are intended to enable Parliament as well as the State Legislatures to regulate fee admission and other steps for the advancement of the weaker sections. All educational institutions, including the minority institutions, are required to maintain the standards prescribed by the appropriate authority in respect of each course or programme of study. While some States have enacted legislations for regulating fee and admission to higher educational institutions, a Central legislation in respect of unaided institutions of higher education falling under the jurisdiction of the Central Government is under consideration. Under Section 26 read with Section 12-A of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956, the UGC is also empowered to regulate admission and levy of fees in private aided and unaided professional educational institutions, including Deemed Universities and private Universities.

UGC has constituted a Committee in August, 2007 to formulate regulations with regard to admission and fee for self financing private professional institutions including Deemed to be Universities.

The Rules of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) which is an affiliating and examining body with a common curriculum/scheme of studies for all schools affiliated to it including Government, private aided and private unaided schools, permit affiliated schools to charge fees which are commensurate with the level of facilities provided.

(e) Data regarding minority educational institutions is not maintained centrally.

Minority status to self financing professional colleges

1550. SHRI A.VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the self-financing professional colleges had applied for minority status under the relevant provisions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including those of the above provisions and the number of institutions of various categories having minority status during the last three years, State-wise, category-wise and community-wise;
- (c) the number of students of respective minority community and non minority community of above institutions during that period, year-wise, category-wise, State-wise and institution-wise; and
- (d) the total number of professional colleges and of students belonging to minority and non minority communities for various courses during that period, year-wise, State-wise, community-wise and course-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The status of minority educational institutions including those which are self financing professional colleges is conferred by the authority nominated by the respective State Government. The data regarding institutions, level of instructions and State-wise spread is not maintained centrally. The record regarding number of students of respective minority community and non-minority community in the minority institutions is also not centrally maintained.

Enrolment in NIOS

1551. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

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

- (a) the details of enrolment and pass percentage in National Institute of Open Schooling during the last five years;
 - (b) the criteria of accrediting an institution by the NIOS;
 - (c) whether such criteria are being adhered to;