

scheme for delivering virtual lectures through EDUSAT. However, some organizations such as IGNOU etc. are, *inter-alia*, making use of EDUSAT facilities for delivery of virtual lectures for students across the country including rural and tribal areas.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Open learning system

1546. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the open learning system can help spread literacy;

(b) whether the Constitution implies right to access quality education in an equitable manner, and this can be attained primarily through open and distance learning system;

(c) whether Government are considering to open more open universities to provide education to all;

(d) if so, whether a number of initiatives have been taken to provide effective facilities, intellectual and knowledge resources in colleges, convergence between conventional university system and the open and distance learning; and

(e) if so, to what extent the facilities of these projects have helped in strengthening literacy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Though open learning system does not directly spread literacy, it can encourage people to become literate and go on to get certifications for Class III, Class V and higher.

(b) The 86th Amendment to the Constitution provides for free and compulsory education to all the children in the age group of 6 - 14 years. Open and distance learning system can provide education and equivalence certification with the conventional system of education. It has also helped in imparting training to the teachers with the objective of providing quality education to the children in the above mentioned age group. However, it may not be the primary source of education in the present scenario.

(c) No, Madam. The Central Government is not considering to open more open universities at present.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Approval to technical institutions

†1547. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many institutions are imparting technical education in the country, but they have not been given necessary Government approval;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) the institutions, alongwith the names of the States where they are located;
- (c) the number of those institutions out of them which are being run with the foreign partnership; and
- (d) the reasons for which these institutions have been permitted to operate in the country without Government approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the All India Council for Technical (AICTE), several institutions are offering courses in the field of Technical Education without obtaining mandatory approval from AICTE. The list of institutions running technical programmes without prior approval of AICTE is available on the AICTE's website www.aicte.ernet.in.

(c) 104 institutions are conducting technical education programmes in collaboration with foreign universities without AICTE approval.

(d) The Council has been issuing Show Cause Notices individually, which are conducting technical courses without AICTE approval, advising them either to seek AICTE approval or discontinue conduct of such unapproved courses immediately.

Public Notices have also been issued about the mandatory requirement of obtaining AICTE approval by such institutions conducting unapproved technical courses. The students have also been cautioned through these public notices not to take admission in such fake institutions conducting unapproved courses.

Study of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

1548. SHRI URKHAO GWARA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many educationists and educational institutions are criticizing vehemently the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for degradation of educational standards, particularly in rural areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many State Governments including Assam have failed to implement schemes under SSA and hence funds are taken back by the Central Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have conducted any study to find out the success and failure of the SSA in various aspects especially problems of education imparted in regional languages and mother tongues; and

(e) if so, the details of the findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, several activities have been undertaken to improve the quality of elementary education and enhance learning achievement levels of students. This includes recruitment of about 7.9 lakh additional teachers to improve the pupil