

As regards food processing industries in Small Scale sector is concerned, according to information available from the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, the employment in the food processing units during 2005-06 is estimated to be around 42.87 lakhs. Out of the above, those who are working in the unregistered sector is estimated to be around 32.24 lakhs.

(c) The data for the growth rate of the food processing industries during the current year 2007-08 is not available. However, the average GDP growth rate of the food processing industries during the first four years of the Tenth Plan period (upto 2005-06) was @ 13.025% at current prices and @ 6.75% at 1999-2000 prices.

Upgradation of Cochin University

1521. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to upgrade the Cochin University of Science and Technology into an institute of national importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in this regard; and

(d) the benefits that would accrue including the financial assistance, by upgrading the status of the University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Based on the recommendation of Prof. S.K. Joshi Committee and Prof. Anandakrishnan Committee, Government is considering upgradation of the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) into an Institute of National Importance as part of a system of Indian Institutes of Engineering Science and Technology (IIST). A sum of Rs. 10.00 crores was released to CUSAT during the financial year of 2006-07.

Books on sex education

†1522. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government intend to effect some changes in the books on sex education prescribed in the schools throughout the country with the help of UNESCO/UNO;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the details thereof; and

(d) the objectives behind imposing sex education on the students despite strong opposition to it throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) There is no book on sex education prescribed in the schools throughout the country. However, Ministry

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of Human Resource Development in collaboration with National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) has launched a programme known as Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) which is being implemented by the States and Union Territories of the country in secondary and higher secondary schools.

National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) has set up a Committee to review the material pertaining to Adolescence Education Programme. Besides, all the States and Union Territories have also been advised to review the material to align the same in the context of local environment and the socio-cultural ethos.

Schools with pucca buildings in Jharkhand

1523. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of primary, middle and secondary schools in Jharkhand that do not have pucca buildings;

(b) the number of schools that have a teacher for each class and how many schools have teachers who have to teach in more than one class;

(c) the figures of such schools with the teacher teaching classes 2, 3, 4 and 5 all alone and by when the teacher and the class ratio would be reduced to 1:1; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) As per information furnished by State Project Director, Jharkhand, SSA, the number of such schools is 3538, the number of schools where teachers are available as per the number of classes and where teachers are less in number in comparison to classes, is 1366 and 34,336 respectively. The total classes available in Jharkhand is 2,06,428, while the total number of teachers working is 1,16,933 as per DISE data 2006-07.

(d) As per SSA norms, the teachers are provided in the ratio of children i.e. 1:40 and, not in the ratio of classes.

Increasing seats in higher education

1524. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to increase the seats in higher technical institutions like Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Central Government