

Partnership of NIOS with minority educational institutions

1558. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has taken any steps to establish partnership with minority educational institutions across the country;

(b) whether NIOS has established a minority cell to specifically help minority schools;

(c) if so, the number of schools which received accreditation from the NIOS during 2006-07; and

(d) the details of steps to be taken to improve and accredit more schools during 2007-08 in minority areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) NIOS has established a Minority Cell in time in June 2006 for expanding educational access to the minority communities especially amongst girls, by undertaking active advocacy programmes to create awareness and to establish linkages through accreditation with existing minority educational institutions.

(c) 20 minority educational institutions have been granted accreditation by NIOS during the year 2006-07.

(d) NIOS has launched an advocacy campaign to ensure local community participation for increasing awareness about programmes and policies of NIOS, through mass contact programmes, group discussions, panel discussions, presentations, conferences and seminars etc. related to minority educational issues and to the issues related to promotion of academic and vocational programmes of NIOS.

Bill for right to education

1559. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

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

(a) whether, five years after the constitution was amended to make education a fundamental right, Parliament is yet to notify the bill for enabling right to education and after a series of consideration Government are now considering having a Central legislation to operationalize the fundamental right to education;

(b) whether the Right to Education Bill for States to enact and adopt was mooted in June, 2006 and the States were to respond to the proposal but all the States have expressed their opposition to the Model Bill; and

(c) if so, by when, a Central legislation is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, notified on 13th December, 2002, inserts Article 21A in the Constitution, which provides that "*the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such*