

and teaching methods in traditional Sanskrit 'pathshalas' across the country on the ground that the existing structure, including the conducting of public examinations by the CBSE, is adequate to take care of Sanskrit studies. The Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan has been informed of these news.

Selection of IIM directors

1564. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

- (a) what has been the procedure for selection of directors of the IIMs;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there has been a diversion from the established procedure of selection;
- (c) if so, the role of his Ministry in the changed procedure;
- (d) the rationale for such a change and whether it was made in consultation with the governing bodies of the IIMs; and
- (e) the steps taken to ensure the autonomy in the selection of directors of such institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) The Director of Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) is appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on the basis of recommendation of a Search-cum-Selection Committee constituted for this purpose. There has been no change in the established procedure of selection of the Director. The Chairman of the Board of Governors (BoG) of the concerned Indian Institute of Management is invariably a member of Search-cum-election Committee.

Quality of education in State-run institutions

1565. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission, in its recent report has expressed anxiety about the plummeting standards and quality of education in the State-run educational institutions;
- (b) whether the Commission has also expressed its concerns about the institutions of higher learning which are fast losing patronage resulting in the closure of large number of them; and
- (c) if so, the steps being contemplated by Government to improve the standards and quality of education in these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The issues of quality and standard of education is addressed by the University Grants Commission (UGC) through its various schemes of Development Assistance to eligible Colleges

and Universities for improving quality of higher education. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an Inter-University Centre of the UGC has assessed 140 Universities out of which only 2 Universities are in the lowest bracket having less than 60 marks on a 100 point scale.

Improvement of standard is a continuous and ongoing process. While the quality of teaching and research in higher education is ensured by regulating the minimum qualifications for teachers, continuous orientation refresher programmes are organized for teachers through Academic Staff Colleges of UGC. More emphasis is being given on research programmes. The UGC has developed the concept of University and College with potential for excellence, for recognizing and promoting excellence.

Literacy Mission in rural areas

†1566. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of overall literacy mission projects sanctioned by Government, State-wise and district-wise, under National Literacy Mission, for nonGovernmental Organisations in rural areas during the last three years, till date; and

(b) whether performance of Non-Governmental Organisations has been reviewed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Under National Literacy Mission, grants are sanctioned to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for the following purposes:

- To conduct vocational training programmes in various trades for the benefit of the neo-literates, unskilled and unemployed youths and other weaker sections of the society belonging to rural and urban areas through district level institutions called Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs). 198 JSSs have been set up in various districts of the country.
- To provide academic and technical resource support to the literacy programme being implemented in the States including rural areas through State level institutions called State Resource Centres (SRCs). 26 SRCs have been set up in various States for this purpose.
- To take up literacy programmes, innovative projects for compact and limited areas of the district, publication of neo-literate magazines for circulation to various districts, undertaking research studies, conducting conferences/seminars etc.

A Statement showing number of JSSs and NGO projects sanctioned, State-wise and district-wise, during the last three years, till date is at Statement-I and II, respectively (*See below*). Besides, one SRC was sanctioned for the State of Chhattisgarh during 2006-07.

(b) Yes, Sir. Performance of these organisations is being reviewed periodically through their Quarterly and Annual Progress Reports. Performance of SRCs and JSSs is also reviewed through Annual Action Plan Meetings.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.