

was being borne by the Department for Development of North East Region (DoNER).

(c) Yes, Sir.

Central University in every State

1529. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the Prime Minister's endeavour to have a Central University in every State and a degree college in every district is proposed to be fulfilled by his Ministry;

(b) whether this is a major thrust area of his Ministry in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission and the UGC has been asked to prepare a strategy in this regard; and

(d) the extent to which the above vision of the Prime Minister would help in improving the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Subject to the Plan being finalized, it is proposed to establish 30 new Central Universities during the Eleventh Plan and the first two years of the Twelfth Plan period, and to provide assistance for establishing one college in each district with low Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Action for establishment, in the first phase, of one Central University, in each of the 16 States which do not have a Central University so far, namely Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand, has already been initiated.

(d) The targeted GER, as against the present level of approximately 10%, is at least 15% by the end of the Eleventh Plan and 21% by the end of the Twelfth Plan.

Universities recognised by UGC

1530. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of universities recognized by the University Grants Commission;

(b) whether there is a proposal by the Commission to classify universities on the basis of their academic standing and other criteria;

(c) if so, the guidelines developed to fix a status or a category;

(d) whether any professional accreditation body has been identified to do the assessment; and

(e) the details of steps proposed to upgrade the standards of education and discipline in all the universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), at present there are 388 University level Institutions recognized under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956.

(b) to (e) The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), which is an Inter-University Centre of the UGC, has been entrusted with the responsibility of assessing and accrediting the Institutions in accordance with the guidelines prescribed for the purpose. The UGC has taken several steps to upgrade the standards of education by providing grants to eligible Universities and Colleges under its various schemes for quality improvement and excellence, such as (i) Universities with Potential for Excellence (ii) Colleges with Potential for Excellence (iii) Special Assistance Programme (SAP) (iv) Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure in Science and Technology (ASIST) (v) Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure in Humanities and Social Science (ASHISS) (vi) Major and Minor Research Projects (vii) Fellowships for pursuing M.Phil and Ph.D programmes etc.

Revenue collected through education cess

†1531. **SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of revenue collected by Government through education cess;
- (b) on which educational programmes the amount of education cess is spent;
- (c) whether the States with the literacy less than national average are provided special assistance from this amount; and
- (d) the amount allocated to Madhya Pradesh Government from this amount during 2005, 2006 and 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Education Cess @ 2% on major Central Taxes was levied through Finance (No.2) Act, 2004. As per information received from Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, the following amount of Education Cess has been collected in respect of Direct and Indirect Taxes during the last three years:

			(Rs. in crore)
Year	Education cess on Direct Taxes	Education cess on Indirect Taxes	Total
2004-05	1787.39	2514.00	4301.39
2005-06	3290.07	4424.00	7714.07
2006-07*	4025.00*	4642.00*	8667.00*

* Figures are provisional.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.