

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) as a part of its activities offers shorthand course in combination with academic subjects at Senior Secondary level through its Accredited Institutions. Similarly, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has also included shorthand as one of the vocational subjects at plus two level for which as per the Boards policy it has recommended books for use by the students.

Central Schools in NER

2442. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Schools in the seven sister States of the North-Eastern Region, State-wise;

(b) whether the schools maintain the same standards, as prevail in the rest of the country; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to open more central schools in the area to maintain standards of education at par with the rest of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) The State-wise number of Central Schools in NER is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of State	No.ofKVS
1	Meghalaya	7
2	Manipur	5
3	Mizoram	1
4	Arunachal Pradesh	10
5	Nagaland	6
6	Tripura	5
7	Assam	42
TOTAL:		76

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RAJYA SABHA

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Due to budgetary constraints, at present no new Kendriya Vidyalayas in Civil/Defence Sectors are being opened.

National Institute of Adult Education

2443. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Adult Education is likely to be disbanded in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the work which was entrusted to the Institute; and

(d) the organisation to which the Institute's workload would be transferred in the event of its closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decision is based on the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission, which was of the view that the National Institute of Adult Education is a weak institution and hardly equipped to perform meaningful academic or supervisory functions.

(c) The National Institute of Adult Education was supposed to perform the following main functions:

- to provide academic and technical resource support for the implementation of adult education programmes;
- to organize training programmes and academic courses;
- to work for the improvement of the content and process of adult education programmes;
- to prepare media materials and harnessing of traditional and non-traditional media.

(d) Adult education programmes can be effectively supported and planned through the Directorate of Adult Education.