

- (d) if so, the fees prescribed for different courses, course-wise; and
- (e) whether these courses have been accorded official recognition in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) According to a news-item appearing in some sections of the press, the Western International University of USA has recently set up a campus in Delhi.

- (b) to (e) Relevant information is being collected.

Kendriya Vidyalayas in Gujarat

1131. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open more Kendriya Vidyalayas in Gujarat; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to open more Kendriya Vidyalayas in Gujarat due to budgetary constraints.

Illiterates in Backward Districts

1132. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the percentage of literates in backward districts of the country;
- (b) whether Government have any plans to improve this percentage; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) As per Census 2001 Report, the literacy rate for all persons in India is 65.38%. The percentage of literates in all such districts, where the literacy rate is below the national average, is 54.7%.

(b) and (c) The steps being taken to improve the literacy rate are as under:—

(i) A new scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been started for Universalization of Elementary Education in a mission mode with a district focus. SSA is to provide useful and relevant Elementary Education for all children in the 6—14 age group by 2010. The goals are as follows:

- * All children in school, Education Guarantee Scheme Centre, Alternate School, 'Back-to-School' camps by 2003.
- * All children complete five years primary education by 2007.
- * All children complete eight years of schooling by 2010.
- * Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life.
- * Bridge all gender and social gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010.
- * Universal retention by 2010.

National Literacy Mission (NLM) seeks to attain full literacy, i.e. a sustainable threshold level of 75 per cent by 2005. It seeks to achieve this goal by imparting functional literacy to non-literates in 15—35 year age group. Major thrust of the programme is on promotion of literacy among women. In the literacy programmes, 60% of the learners are women and around 60% of volunteers also are women and young girls.

Various facets of literacy related backwardness like low female literacy, SC/ST literacy etc. are being addressed through the above-mentioned efforts.

Universities in UTs

1133. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of universities located in Union Territories;
- (b) the number of students in different disciplines in all such universities