

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, how effectively the science and technology programmes are going on in our country. And, as far as Biochemistry is concerned, how far we have reached, considering the earlier situation where our universities and colleges were lagging behind in this field.

DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA: Sir, the latest cultural exchange programme was signed on 10th March, 2000; it is an evolving process. Sir, if the hon. Member sends me any specific enquiry, I will respond to it, to his satisfaction.

SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Recently, the Minister of Education of France, Mr. Allegre, visited India, and he met the Minister of Education, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi. And, there was a plan in India to instal Laser Physics and Geo Physics. There was also an agreement between India and France. Sir, as far as Pondicherry is concerned, it is a French-dominated territory. French culture prevails there; more than 3,000 French people are living there. I would request that if at all the Government is thinking of having joint collaboration in the field of science and technology, they should kindly consider establishing it in Pondicherry.

DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA: Sir, there are agreements reached between the Universities of Pondicherry and the eight Universities of France in the fields of medicine, science, mathematics, computer science, physics, chemistry, law, human rights, history economics, life sciences, etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

### Digital library for research scholars

†\*644. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) when, in what manner, and wherefrom the research scholars students can take advantage of conventional knowledge and digital library;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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(b) whether the libraries of all the universities of the country have been linked with this facility;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) Almost all universities are having large libraries to cater to the requirements of research scholars students. There is a growing realization that conventional knowledge can be made available to all students and researchers by networking the libraries using the information and communication technology. At the national level two Library networks, viz. Information & Library Network (INFLIBNET) and Developing Library Network (DELNET) are emerging.

According to the information furnished by the university Grants Commission (UGC), under the INFLIBNET programme the Commission is funding eligible universities for modernizing libraries. The programme entails creation of electronic database of catalogues of library book/journals/Ph. D./M.Phil. thesis giving titles and authors details. This database can be electronically accessed for reference work. UGC proposes to create a "Digital Repository of Research & Teaching material", termed as a 'Digital Library', to provide access to electronic research journals as a central service. The UGC is also in the process of setting up UGC Net to connect more than 200 universities and their libraries on education and research network (ERNET).

### **Rail infrastructure development in States**

\*645. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) with which States, the Ministry of Railways has signed MoUs so far to develop Rail infrastructure and the projects taken up thereunder;