

academically bright students during the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002—2007) and Annual Plan (2002-2003), viz.:

- (i) Assistance to students belonging to Scheduled Castes for pursuing studies in Residential Public Schools;
- (ii) Setting up Residential schools for Scheduled Caste students studying in classes VI to XII;
- (iii) Merit based Scholarships for the students belonging to OBCs;
- (iv) Merit based Scholarships for the students belonging to Minorities; and
- (v) Scholarships for students with disabilities for higher education.

National network for open school

† 2842. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering to set up National network (N-NOD) for open school; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) While there is no such proposal for the school sector, the Tenth Plan proposals submitted by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Secondary and Higher Education include the proposal of establishment of a National Network for Open and Distance Education (N-NODE) for the Open Learning System.

The above mentioned proposal suggests a network which will connect IGNOU Headquarters with its Regional Centres and its Study Centres and also with State Open Universities.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.