

*[English]***Promotion of Distance Education**

*300 SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether steps have been taken to promote distance education in the country; and

(b) If so, the number of open universities established in the country so far?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indira Gandhi National Open University was established in 1985 with the objective, among others, of promoting the open University and Distance Education System in the educational pattern of the country. For the performance of this function, a Distance Education Council (DEC) has been established under the IGNOU Act in 1992. The DEC is engaged in the establishment and development of an Open University Network in the country linking IGNOU and all State Open Universities through sharing programme, facilities and materials. The DEC also provides financial support to State Open Universities for their development after they are declared fit by the UGC for such assistance as per provisions in the UGC Act.

(b) Establishment of Open Universities in the States is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. So far, the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and West Bengal have established Open Universities.

Increase in Intake in IITs/IIMs

*301 SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to double the number of seats in Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to set up more Indian Institutes of Management to cope with the increase in demand for management personnel in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) With a view to optimally utilising the resources available, the Government propose to increase the students intake in Indian Institutes of Technology at Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur and Madras and Indian Institutes of Management at Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Calcutta. The scale of increase can, however, be decided only after considering various relevant factors.

(c) At present, there is no proposal to start more Indian Institutes of Management in the country.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of Power Project by APSEB and HPCL

2806. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 500 MW power project is being jointly set up at Visakhapatnam by the State Electricity Board and HPCL;

(b) If so, the details thereof inter alia indicating the time schedule of its completion, expenditure involved and progress achieved under the project; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The project is at a preliminary stage and firming up of the details such as cost and completion schedule, etc., would depend on the tying up of all the necessary inputs/clearances and finalisation of the detailed feasibility report.

*[Translation]***Narora Atomic Power Plant**

2807. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a serious environmental problem has arisen in the adjoining areas due to emitting of dust from Narora Atomic Power Plant situated in district Bulandshahar;

(b) if, so the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Union Government are contemplating to formulate any effective scheme to save from the pollution created by such type of establishments situated in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (e) The Information is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.

*[English]***Separation of Judiciary from Executive**

2808. Dr. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation demanding steps to separate judiciary from executive in the hill districts of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to establish separate judiciary in the hill districts of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar in Assam?