

1	2
(v) Humanities/Arts	4803
(vi) Law	51
(vii) Medicine/Dentistry/Nursing	1443
(viii) Science	2401
(ix) Other subjects	281
	12759

(b) The foreign students coming to India fall under three categories :

(i) those who come under the General Cultural and other Scholarships Schemes and in the context of the Cultural Agreements with other countries;

(ii) Self-financing private foreign students ; and

(iii) Students coming under special (*ad-hoc*) Government to Government programmes.

As far as (i) & (ii) are concerned the cost borne by the Government per seat for foreign students in the same as borne by the Government for the Indian students in the corresponding courses, since the same tuition fee is charged from the foreign students also. According to the studies undertaken by the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, the estimate for average expenditure per year on an engineering graduate and post-graduate student in the engineering colleges and I.I.Ts. in 1971-72, is as given below :

	Graduate	Post-Graduate
	Rs.	Rs.
Engineering Colleges	2635	9832
I.I.Ts.	6794	10643

The cost estimates for the last three years are yet to be worked out. However, since there has been considerable increase in staff salaries and maintenance and all other items of expenditure over the last decade, the cost per student in the Engineering Colleges would have increased.

As regards (iii), the cost to be incurred depends upon the agreement signed in each case between the sponsoring foreign agency and the institution in India concerned taking into account the various as-

pects of organising special programmes for groups of foreign students such as additional teaching and campus facilities, hostel accommodation etc. and the full cost of education is met by the sponsoring Government/funding agency.

Facilities and Amenities provided to disabled children during International Year of Disabled

*499. SHRI CHANDRABHAN ATHARE PATIL : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to lay a state-

ment showing the details of the facilities and amenities which have been provided so far for the welfare of disabled children in each State during this international year of disabled ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTERIES OF RAILWAYS AND EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library See No. LF-3268/81].

Effect on eyes of children studying at very early age

*500. **SHRI BALKRISHNA WASNIK :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ophthalmologists who participated in a seminar on the prevention of blindness among children held in Delhi in November, 1981 were of the view that sending children to school before the age of six years increases the chances of eye damage;

(b) whether all the public schools functioning in the country and the educational shops admit children in schools at the age of three years; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and what steps they propose to take to ensure that children are sent to schools at proper age ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTERIES OF RAILWAYS AND EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c). The participants of a Seminar on 'pre-

vention of blindness among children' organised recently by the Dr. A. V. Baliga Foundation of Delhi expressed concern on the incidence of damage to eyes due to strain of reading and writing introduced below the age of five years.

Formal education begins in class I for which the age of entry is at least 5 plus; mostly, in fact, 6 plus.

In some cases, children in the age group 3-6 are exposed to pre-schooling. The early childhood education in these cases generally is more in the nature of play group activities. Such early childhood education is mostly under private auspices over which States/Union Territories have no control. Specific information about what private institution do in this area is not available.

Iranian Students in India

*501. **SHRI CHITTA MAHATA :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to lay a statement showing :

(a) whether a large number of Iranian students are living in India ; and

(b) if so, the number of Iranian students, university-wise ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTERIES OF RAILWAYS AND EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b). According to the information available in the Ministry the total number of Iranian students studying in various universities and Institutions