

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c) The National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986, as modified in 1992, states that free and compulsory elementary education of satisfactory quality shall be provided to all children up to the age of 14 years before we enter the 21st century. The Central Government is augmenting the efforts of the State Governments towards achieving Universalisation of Elementary Education through Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Operation Blackboard, Teacher Education, Non-formal Education, National Programme of Nutritional Support for Primary Education and District Primary Education Programme. A review of the schemes is undertaken at the end of the Five Year Plans. Based on such reviews the schemes are modified/revised or expanded with a view to achieve the goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education.

[Translation]

According Recognition to Universities

2296. SHRI H.P. SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria followed by the UGC to grant recognition to the universities;

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to give recognition to the Vir Kumar Singh University in Bihar;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) A University can be established or incorporated by or under the Central Act, a Provincial Act or a State Act. As soon as the UGC receives intimation about its establishment and appointment of the first Vice-Chancellor, the name of such a newly established University is included in the list of Universities under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act.

As regards the eligibility of University to receive Central Assistance under Section 12(B) of the UGC Act, the University has to fulfil certain minimum criteria as laid down in the Rules framed by the Government. In case the University fulfils all the conditions, the proposal is examined by the UGC with the help of a Visiting Committee and if the same is found in order, the University is declared fit to receive Central assistance under Section 12-B of the UGC Act.

(b) to (d) The Vir Kunwar Singh University, Ara (Bihar) sent a proposal in April, 1996, to the UGC for declaring it eligible for central assistance under Section 12(B) of the UGC Act.

After examination of the proposal, it was found that the University did not fulfil the conditions with regard to infrastructural facilities and faculty strength. The University has been advised to fulfil these conditions and to approach the Commission for further appropriate consideration of its request.

[English]

W.B. Assistance for the Construction of School Buildings

2297. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank assistance was obtained for the construction of school/educational institution/buildings in the country;

(b) if so, the amount of World Bank assistance received;

(c) whether the Kerala Government had sent any proposal for World Bank assistance for equipment procurement also;

(d) if so, the amount sought for; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to get the same?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. World Bank assistance in the form of soft loan has been tied up to the extent of US \$ 1062.3 million (about Rs.3613.00 crores) for the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) and Uttar Pradesh Basic Education Project in 132 Districts of 11 States for the period 1994-2003. A maximum of 24% of the project cost can be utilised for civil works, which include construction of school buildings, additional classrooms, repairs, construction of buildings for Block Resource Centres (BRCs)/Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs), District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), State Council of Educational Research & Training (SCERT), State Institutes of Educational Management and Training (SIEMT), etc. Besides, under the World Bank assisted Technician Education Project meant for upgradation of Polytechnics, an expenditure of about Rs.838.62 crores has been incurred on construction of buildings from 1990-91 to October, 1998 of which 90% has been disbursed by the World Bank.

(c) to (e) The World Bank assisted District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) is being implemented in 6 Districts of the State involving a total project cost of about Rs.186 crores for a project period of 6-7 years. Implementation of the project includes procurement of goods/equipment which are purchased in accordance with the prescribed procurement procedures. No separate/specific proposal for procurement of equipment under the above project has been received from the Government of Kerala. However, under DPEP, out of the total expenditure of Rs.60.15 crores on the project from 1994-95 to October, 1998, an amount of Rs.8.08 crores has been spent on procurement of goods/equipment and an amount of Rs.6.46 crores has been reimbursed by the World Bank. Under the Technician Education Project, Kerala had sought Rs.13.2 crores for procurement of equipment, which has already been provided.

[Translation]

Mahila Samridhhi Yojana

2298. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :